

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

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REFORMS IN GOVERNMENT.

THE Administrative Reform Association, says the "Times," ought to die with dignity; and in order to help it, the "Times" gives it a knock on the head. What does this mean? Is our administration reformed? Nobody pretends so. Was the Association weakly started? Why, we all remember that it started with far more *éclat* than the Anti-Corn-Law League. It had money, numbers, and "swell" speakers; nevertheless, the fact is certain that it is a failure. We do not only go by the "Times;" though the "Times," as Cobett used to say, is "always the first paper that sees how the cat jumps." We have the Association's own admission, in a most dolorous wail, accompanied by a plaintive attack on the British nation. The British people want administrative reform, but they do not, it seems, want the Association. How is this?

The fact is, that it was an impromptu affair, chiefly got up by the very "Times" which has now given it the *coup-de-grace*. The "Times" does not like rivals. Having lashed the country into a state of excitement which prepared it for such a movement, it now sees that it had better not have a body in existence, claiming its support, and doing what it considers its own work. What is more important—the country seems of the same way of thinking. Mr. Corderoy must retire into private life again. Corderoy has not succeeded (if a pun may be pardoned) in putting down velvet and silk, and our Government seems likely to retain its "Upper Ten" character.

For ourselves, we heartily hope to see our administration reformed some day. This fact gives us an interest in the moribund Association, and makes us handle its weakening limbs tenderly. On the present occasion we propose to anticipate its demise, and inquire, with the Irish at a wake,—"Why did you die?"

We have already said that its growth was too sudden; it began with tremendous promise, but it was the creature of a special excitement. The mismanagement of the war had inflamed the public, and the Association was a vent for the public's wrath. But wrath is evanescent. Palmerston certainly did better than his predecessors—Sebastopol fell—the "Times" correspondent reported abundance

of victuals. Immediately the country forgot that its administration wanted reforming! This is always the way. As Harry Fielding forgot the difficulties of a month before a pasty and a bottle of Burgundy, the country forgets its troubles in a bit of luck. This is the old phenomenon, always fatal to demagogues, and which teaches agitators how precarious is their success. You must make hay while the sun of public favour is shining. Let us see how the Association set about making hay.

Of course, there were meetings; but meetings are not action, any more than a trumpeter is a fighting man. They are of great use in setting ideas before the world, stirring-up enthusiasm, exposing humbug, and suggesting action. The Association laid down, as its watchword, "The right man in the right place." But, what then? This is nothing new; everybody admits it. Lord Palmerston quite agrees; but he thinks that he is the right man!—so does the Bishop of London—so does Lord Paungrave. Our reformers should have gone further, and produced the right man. That is the thing we want; nor can you improve administration except by getting better administrators. The Association required a Cromwell—they found Mr. Tite.

Is it not the case (we treat them tenderly, for we approve the cause), that a want of men of leading ability distinguished the movement from the first—we mean men of practical ability? Mr. Dickens made a very clever speech, but he expressly told us that the kind of thing was not in his line; Mr. Layard did ditto, ditto, and went back to Assyrian antiquities shortly. Who were the rest of the men? Respectable wholesale dealers—decent local gents—ambitious parochial men. No Cobdens nor Brights! They simply abused abuses in speeches as dull as the "imbecility" which they professed to attack. Again we ask, what then? An abuse does not vanish before a respectable harangue rather above the level of Norton Folgate. If speeches could save the country, the House of Commons is quite fit for the business. No reform will, we think, give us better speaking there—if speaking were everything, which it is not.

Then the Association, with a platitude in its mouth, and ordinary rhetoric to embody the platitude, advised the electors not to ask for

places from members. In other words, the Association advised generally that the English people should refrain from getting what they can out of the Government for themselves and families. Moderate your desires!—do without a little place in the Post Office! Excellent advice. Were England a pure, self-denying country, all would be well. So England is told, every week, in church. The advice got no accession of authority from a handful of men, whose personal objects (in a wicked age) were rather suspected to be places for themselves. We do not say, mark you, that these were the objects; but the age is knowing, cynical, wide awake, and undoubtedly this was one of its notions. Besides, the objects of the Association were vague, impalpable, and intangible. The League's object was as plain as a pike-staff—a cheap, big loaf. *That* is an object everybody understands—would to God everybody had it before him! "What are you for?" "Oh, I'm for a big loaf." Here is a creed which even a Jesuit theologian could not confuse or obscure; but the "right man" is very vague. You know the right loaf when you see it—the right loaf is the big one; but how are you to know the right man? You cannot hoist him up in front of the hustings as they used to do the symbolic loaf. Should he be big or little? "Jacob Omnim" is a giant—Lord John is as little as his policy.

We are stating—the reader sees—the difficulties which the Association had to contend with, by way of accounting for its languid condition. But, perhaps, the greatest of all is yet to come. The fact is, the whole form of the agitation is one of which England is getting rather tired. Public meetings, tracts, harangues, have been overdone. It may be unreasonable, but the country wants something newer and fresher. Agitation provokes antagonism. And, least of all, is agitation welcome in war time. One overwhelming fact against the Association has been, that we are at war. People have thought, "Well, perhaps Lord Palmerston is as good as Mr. Morley, after all! At all events, here he is. We may go further, and fare worse." In the same way, the people do not believe the pot-house oracle, when he tells them that Palmerston is secretly in Russian pay, and that we destroyed the Russian fleet with a secret eye to the Czar's interest. The people think it much more likely that a pot-house oracle should



THE RUSSIANS AT KARS, AFTER THE CAPITULATION.—(FROM A SKETCH BY TEIXIER.)

be a liar, than that Lord Palmerston should be a traitor. "Some men," says Halifax, "knock loud only to be let in." The masses, equally with the rulers, are interested in keeping that class of persons out.

It may not be amiss to consider what are the obstacles to Administrative Reform, putting the Association, *pro tem.* on one side. At present, no one person or set of persons is strong enough to undertake anything of the kind; and no ministry ever lasts long enough to achieve a great measure. These facts belong to our system of party, and our system of elections. In the next place, no man of brains can get into the Government, except through Parliament; parliamentary success is no test of administrative genius: and Parliament itself is only accessible to *protégés*, men of money, or popular favourites. England is governed by cliques and money,—tempered by agitators and riots. The power of the aristocracy depends, not on their privileges, but on their cash,—*plus* a certain *précédé* which their cash has over other people's. Now, on their cash, which usually is in the form of land, depends their political power; and the "appointments" they help themselves to, are the interest of the capital which they invest in politics. This is the *rationale* of the affair! In fact, we are so commercial, that our politics are part of our commercial system. At the same time, the only advantage of the noble is, that he has a better place at the counter. It does not follow from his being a "Norman"—for in fact, he is generally nothing of the kind: it follows from his wealth, and the connections which his wealth has formed since it has been in the family. During a great part of the last century the Pelhams governed England, on the strength of their having married with the descendant of a Lord Mayor—and this is only one fact out of many.

In order to reform administration, then—while the public remains of its usual opinion as to the necessity of a man's having money as a guarantee for his honesty—you must make the most of existing materials. You must not expect a radical change at all. You cannot get at the "right man" if you want him; nor can he get at you—unless, being the "right man," he is also a lucky man. In the interim, we shall have just as good an administration as luck sends us, and no better: and we have learned, at least, that whatever be the real way of amending administration, that way does not lie through the Association, over whose failure we are all speculating.

THE RUSSIANS AT KARS.

AT the present moment we are without any details from an English source with reference to the closing days of that fearful struggle with famine of which Kars was the scene and its heroic garrison were the victims. Dr. Sandwith, who the other day returned to England from the captured city—having been released by the Russian General, in gratitude for the attention bestowed by him on the wounded Russians after their unsuccessful assault—announces, we see, the immediate publication of his diary. In the meantime, the public have to be content with such scraps of information as reach this country through various channels concerning an event which they regard in the light of a serious misfortune, and in which they feel a more than ordinary interest.

Our readers are no doubt familiar with the unfortunate results of the Turkish campaign in Asia in 1854. Kars was then threatened by a Russian army; and, had it been left to the protection of its governing Mushir, it would no doubt have been in the possession of the Russians more than twelve months ago. The Hungarian General Guyon was, however, sent there to assist the Turkish Governor with his advice; and he it was who planned and superintended the construction of those fortifications which effectually kept the Russians at bay. Mr. Duncan, who has written a very lively narrative of the campaign, gives us the following account of how Kars was rendered impregnable:—

"Kars is commanded by a ridge of hills, the largest of which is known as the Kara-dagh, or the Black Mountain. This eminence entirely dominates the plain, by which the enemy would have to advance, in the event of an attack in force on Kars; but the town is liable to be turned by a rapid march over the hills; in which case, the position of Kara-dagh would offer little means of resistance. During the campaign of 1854, it was determined to fortify this mountain in the best manner that the miserable resources possessed by the commanders would permit. There were no engineers with the army of Anatolia, no sappers, and very few trenching tools. The latter were of the most ancient description, and consisted of useless picks, and a few score spades.

"General Guyon carefully surveyed the position, and proposed to erect eight redoubts, to be mounted with forty-six cannon. The difficulties in the construction of these works threatened to be great. The mountain was, in many places, five feet under the snow, and when that obstacle had been conquered, a second, and a more severe one, menaced the progress of the working parties. The Kara-dagh had been subjected to a volcanic convulsion, which had covered its surface with masses of rock and stones. Of earth there was little or none, and thus the construction of the redoubts promised to be a matter of difficulty. Guyon, in the absence of proper engineering officers, intrusted the superintendence of the works, the lines of which he had traced out, to the European officers present with the army. Cavalry and infantry officers, more or less incapable, were, therefore, charged with the important mission of rendering Kars impregnable.

"The officers having been appointed to the superintendence of the working parties, the next task was to discover the men who could be employed in the latter occupation. The sickness and debility of the troops were such, that whole regiments were rendered inefficient, and the most fortunate battalions of the army were reduced by famine and typhus to a third of their proper strength.

"At length it was determined that each regiment should take its turn, and thus a daily force of two thousand men proceeded to the fortifications. The inhabitants of Kars had taken an immense interest in these proceedings. Their native place was now to be adorned with *tabias*, as they styled the tabias in question were to resemble, or were to effect, that consideration had only tended to increase their excitement and curiosity. On the day that the operations were to commence, great crowds of serious fathers of families had assembled in the coffee-houses, in the bazaars, and in the market-place of Kars, and were discussing the question of fortifications with much interest. Suddenly, a band of cavasses, backed by a company of infantry, made their appearance, and surrounded the astonished inhabitants.

"An order from the Mushir was then read aloud, in which all the inhabitants of Kars were commanded to proceed at once to the Kara-dagh, to assist in erecting the defences of their town. Nothing could exceed the disgust of the assembled multitude, on hearing this decree, unless, perhaps, it was the delight of the soldiers, who considered the whole affair in the light of a very good joke. The inhabitants one and all murmured, and a few energetic leaders refused point blank to work at tabias, or at anything else. They were at once seized by the cavasses, and well thrashed, after which wholesome lesson they proceeded with their more discreet companions towards the black mountain. The summit of the Kara-dagh was a good forty minutes' walk from the town, and the ascent was steep and difficult. The soldiers marched up, preceded by their bands, and notwithstanding their pale, sickly forms, they displayed a sturdy resolution in forcing their way through the snow, and in labouring on the heights. The first day, everybody who was in good health, visited the Kara-dagh. The Mushir and the native pachas were there, as likewise Guyon and the foreign generals. The Mushir, in order to set a good example to the troops, took up a spade, and commenced digging; but after a little time, he sat himself calmly down upon a stone, and called for a pipe and coffee. Then commenced the real labour of the day. The soldiers were despatched to collect the largest stones that covered the surface of the mountain,

though concealed by the snow, and were directed to throw them along the lines that had been traced out for the redoubts. In time, the faces of the works were knocked up, and then, as evening was approaching, the whole living mass assembled on the Kara-dagh broke up, and descended to the town.

"The next day, all the fathers of families who had taken at first such very great interest in the fortifications, carefully remained within doors, and hermetically closed the entrance to their dwellings. Another body of soldiers proceeded to the heights, and the works visibly progressed. The parapets of the redoubts had ere long attained their proper height and breadth, and it now became necessary to collect earth in sufficient quantities to face them. This was pronounced impossible in the present state of the weather, so it was determined to await the thaw to complete these works, and in the meantime to throw up fresh stone redoubts. The strength possessed by the soldiers, notwithstanding their life of misery, was wonderful to behold, and could only be believed by those who have witnessed the astonishing burthens transported by the Armenian hamels, or porters of Cons-antinople. Some of the Arabistany soldiers were peculiarly powerful. They staggered under the weight of rocks that would have crushed an ordinary mortal. The middle of the day was apportioned by the soldiers to repose. Some of them slept. The few who had money to purchase tobacco lighted their chibouques, and the remainder contrived to pass away the time in amusement. At this period of the day the aspect of the Kara-dagh was most lively. Bands of music threw animation into the men by their martial strains. The neighing and prancing of the officers' horses, and the motley garments of the citizens who had fallen into the hands of the cavasses, gave to the whole scene a sprightly and agreeable colouring."

This was the style in which those formidable redoubts which dealt so murderous a fire on the advancing Russian columns, were constructed, and which would have still saved the city had it not been forced to succumb through the supineness of those whose duty it was to have afforded it a timely succour.

The illustration on the preceding page represents the main body of the Russian troops, at the time the town was taken possession of, on its way to enter within the walls of the captured city.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

THE members of the Council of War, including General Bosquet, arrived in Paris early last week, and on the 10th held their first sitting at the Tuilleries, under the presidency of the Emperor. The Council is composed of the Princes Napoléon, the Duke of Cambridge, Lord Cowley, Sir E. Lyons, Admiral Dundas, Sir R. Airy, Sir H. Jones, General La Marmora, Marshal Vaillant, Count Walewski, General Canrobert, General Bosquet, General Niel, General Martimpréy, Admiral Hamelin, Admiral Jardier de la Gravière, and Admiral Penaud. The question of a campaign in the interior of the southern provinces is said to have been touched on, and the possibility of ascending the rivers, but this was opposed by the Admirals. The absence of Mehemed Bey, the Turkish Ambassador in Paris, from the Council, excites a good deal of surprise.

No doubt seems to be entertained that the Emperor means, in the spring, to indemnify himself for the disappointment which he expressed in his speech on the Place de la Bastille, at not having been able to command an army in person. But whether his Majesty means to go to the north, or to the Crimea, is still a question which is discussed.

On Tuesday, the Duke of Cambridge, in the name of Queen Victoria, distributed the British Crimean medal to 14,000 French troops, just returned from the seat of war, and drawn up in the Place du Carrousel. The Emperor was much cheered, and the whole scene was very imposing.

SPAIN.

THE health of General O'Donnell is said to be so much improved that next week he will probably be able to resume the direction of the War department. The new Spanish Constitution will be promulgated immediately on the recovery of the Gallant General.

The Government has declared to the Cortes that it will know how to maintain general tranquillity.

Thirty-two persons have been arrested for taking part in the *émeute* which recently took place near the palace of the Cortes.

The Cortes have commenced the discussion of the Bill for the railway from Madrid to Saragossa.

PORTUGAL.

The Cortes were opened by Dom Pedro V. on the 2nd. The Royal Speech refers to the cholera as nearly extinct in Portugal; it laments the continual progress of the grape disease; shows that the grain harvest had been generally good, and promises a Ministerial Bill with reference to the necessities of life whenever a general rise takes place in the price of food. His Majesty acknowledges having received upon his accession to the throne cordial congratulations from the Sovereigns, allies of Portugal,—the Illy See, the Queen of England, the King of Saxony, the Emperor of Austria, the King of the Belgians and the Queen of Spain having appointed for that purpose special envoys. The Royal Speech also referred to the necessity of providing for the continuation of public works, particularly for facilities of transit; and his Majesty stated, "The position of the public finances inspires no fears, but rather confidence in its improvement. The Government has reason to expect happy results for the national credit and the progress of public works, in consequence of the negotiations confided to one of my ministers (M. Fountes) in London and Paris,—negotiations which will be opportunely submitted to the examination of the Cortes."

AUSTRIA.

A DESPATCH from Vienna, January 13, says:—"The answer of Russia to the propositions for peace made by Austria has arrived. As soon as he was acquainted with the fact, Count Buol informed Prince Gortschakoff that the entire Austrian Legation would quit St. Petersburg on the 18th instant." Russia is not expected to make any further concessions, and diplomatic relations between Austria and Russia will in all probability be suspended.

Count Buol, in notifying to the Ambassadors of the Western Powers the probable rupture of Austria with Russia, after the 18th of January, adds, that under no circumstances can Austria take the field with the Allies during the present year.

PRUSSIA.

It is stated that the King has addressed a letter to General de Wrangel through the Minister of War, blaming him strongly for having attended a *Te Deum*, celebrated at the Hotel of the Russian Legation, at Berlin, in celebration of the taking of Kars. The act is declared to be highly "inconvenient," and incompatible with the General's military position.

RUSSIA.

THE grand military council at St. Petersburg has been dissolved. Every emergency in the possible future campaign upon the shores of the Baltic or the banks of the Danube is said to have been provided against; and the few remaining months before spring will be devoted to consolidating the armies and fulfilling the strategic plans agreed on by the Council.

The accounts which have been received relative to the progress of the negotiations at St. Petersburg are reduced to the following:—Russia does not reject the formation of a new frontier on the Danube, but does not admit that demand to its fullest extent, as she is only disposed to cede the Island of Leti, or, in other words, to transfer her frontier beyond the arm of the river which forms the mouth of Kilia. Although Russia only partially yields to the demand of the Allies, great value is attached to the above concession, for it is hoped that it will lead to others.

The Princess Alexandra of Oldenburg having been received into the Greek Church, on the 6th instant, her nuptials with the Grand Duke Nicholas were celebrated at St. Petersburg on the day following with great pomp.

SWEDEN.

A CIRCULAR (dated the 18th ult.) has been addressed to all Swedish Envoy by Baron Sternfeld, the Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs, relating to the recent treaty with the Western Powers. The following are the chief paragraphs:—

"Apprehensions for the future, founded upon remembrances too well known to need repetition, and entertained by the obstacles made by Russia to a satisfactory regulation of the Border relations in the northern provinces, were increased still more by the manifestation of ideas of encroachment of that Empire in the East. Under other more favourable circumstances, those ideas might obtain a development in the north which would be of a nature to cause us serious embarrassment. France and England having proposed to his Majesty a defensive treaty of alliance destined to assure the integrity of the United Kingdoms, the King felt that it was his duty eagerly to accept a guarantee, the utility of which is as patent as it is uncontested. No one can say what eventual contingencies are not hidden in the womb of the future, and in such difficult circumstances as the present it is the duty of every Sovereign to look after the maintenance of the independence and to assure the welfare of the nation entrusted to his care by Providence. It was in this idea that the treaty was concluded on the 20th of last month at Stockholm, between the United Kingdoms on the one hand, and France and England on the other, and which was ratified at Stockholm on the 30th, at London on the 29th, and at Paris on the 28th of the same month."

TURKEY.

THE first budget of the Ottoman Empire has been published, and details the expenses occasioned by the war to Turkey. The document is of extreme length, extending from the 27th May, 1853, to 27th September, 1855:—

"During this time the Treasury disbursed for extraordinary expenses of the departments of war, marine, and artillery, 3,015,558 bourses, or £11,200,000. The resources raised by the Government over and above the budget consist of £2,284,500, the proceeds of the first loan; £600,000, advanced by M. Rothschild on the new loan; £201,800, national gifts; £1,440,000, from the issue of paper-money; and £16,700, lent by the *caisse des dépôts et des dérivés*, forming a total of £4,573,000. The total ordinary outlay of the war during the twenty-eight months being £5,800,000, and the amount of the resources which the Treasury has disposed of being £4,573,000, the Treasury has to claim £1,227,000. In the twenty-eight months, therefore, the extraordinary expenses of the war have amounted to about £7,400,000, in which sum is included £70,000 advanced to the Allied armies in warlike matériel, ammunition, &c. In that period of time, Turkey, in order to resist Russia and the encroachments of the Greeks, has never had under arms less than 250,000 men. The troops of Egypt and Tunis, though paid by those provinces, have been supported by the Imperial Government. The Turkish Cabinet, without levying any fresh taxes, has supported this war for two years and a half, without any other resources from Europe than £2,500,000 of the first loan, and £600,000 advanced on the second. The amount required by the War Department, during the coming year, over and above its ordinary budget, is £2,550,000, and that by the marine and artillery, £1,495,000."

The returns of the army give 96,000 effective rediffs, and 105,325 men of the regular army. The report concludes by calling the attention of the Western Powers to the economy and care, which has enabled the Government of the Porte, with only small extraordinary resources, to maintain a vigorous war.

AMERICA.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

PRESIDENT PIERCE, notwithstanding the non-election of the Speaker, presented his Annual Message to Congress on the 31st ult. We give the following summary, part of which is from an American paper:—

"The part of the Message which was looked for with the greatest interest, was that which touched upon our foreign relations. It was anticipated that our difficulties with England would not be treated in a very assuring tone—nor are they. The British construction of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty is pronounced inadmissible, and the determination is expressed to insist upon the rights of the United States. It is stated that negotiations are not yet at an end, and yet little encouragement is held out that they will produce a satisfactory solution, and we are told that the question cannot much longer continue open without seriously endangering the friendly relations of the two countries. So far as regards the view of our Government, that under the treaty the British have no right in Central America, except at Belize, we apprehend there will be no difference of opinion among the American people, but we believe it morally certain that England will never follow her pretensions to the arbitrament of the sword. The battle will not be suffered to leave diplomatic ground, and it will probably not be determined there before the internal civil and commercial changes of that part of the continent will have superseded and made obsolete every material point in dispute."

The President says:—

"To a renewed call by this Government upon Great Britain to abide by and carry into effect the stipulations of the convention according to its obvious import by withdrawing from the possession or colonisation of portions of the Central American States of Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica, the British Government has at length replied, affirming that the operation of the treaty is prospective only, and did not require Great Britain to abandon or contract any possessions held by her in Central America at the date of its conclusion."

"This reply substitutes a partial issue, in the place of the general one presented by the United States. The British Government passes over the question of the rights of Great Britain, real or supposed, in Central America, and assumes that she had such right at the date of the treaty, and that those rights comprehended the protectorship of the Mosquito Indians, the extended jurisdiction and limits of the Belize, and the colony of the Bay Islands, and thereupon proceeds by implication to infer, that, if the stipulations of the treaty be merely future in effect, Great Britain may still continue to hold the contested portions of Central America. The United States cannot admit either the inference or the premises. We steadily deny, that, at the date of the treaty, Great Britain had any possessions there, other than the limited and peculiar establishment at the Belize, and maintain that, if she had any, they were surrendered by the convention."

"This Government, recognising the obligations of the treaty, has of course desired to see it executed in good faith by both parties; and in the discussion, therefore, has not looked to rights, which we might assert independently of the treaty, in consideration of our geographical position and of other circumstances, which create for us relations to the Central American States different from those of any government of Europe."

"The British Government in its last communication, although well knowing the views of the United States, still declares that it sees no reason why a conciliatory spirit may not enable the two Governments to overcome all obstacles to a satisfactory adjustment of the subject."

"Assured of the correctness of the construction of the treaty constantly adhered to by this Government, and resolved to insist on the rights of the United States, yet actuated also by the same desire which is avowed by the British Government to remove all causes of serious misunderstanding between two nations associated by so many ties of interest and kindred, it has appeared to me proper not to consider an amicable solution of the controversy hopeless."

"There is, however, reason to apprehend that, with Great Britain in the actual occupation of the disputed territories, and the treaty therefore practically null as far as regards our rights, this international difficulty cannot long remain undetermined without involving in serious danger the friendly relations which it is the interest as well as the duty of both countries to cherish and preserve. It will afford me sincere gratification if future efforts shall result in the success anticipated heretofore with more confidence than the aspect of the case permits me now to entertain."

Regarding "the difficulty" as to recruiting, Mr. Pierce says:—

"It is difficult to understand how it should have been supposed that troops could be raised here by Great Britain without violation of the municipal law. The unmistakable object of the law was to prevent every such act, which, if performed, must be either in violation of the law, or in studied evasion of it; and, in either alternative, the act done would be alike injurious to the sovereignty of the United States."

"The matter acquired additional importance by the recruitments in the United States not being discontinued, and the disclosure of the fact that they were prosecuted upon a systematic plan devised by official authority; that recruiting rendezvous had been opened in the principal cities, and depots for the reception of recruits established on our frontier; and that the whole business conducted under the supervision and by the regular co-operation of British officers, civil and military, some in the North American provinces, and some in the United States. The complicity of those officers in an undertaking which could only be accomplished by defying our laws, throwing suspicion over our attitude of neutrality, and disregarding our territorial rights, is conclusively proved by the evidence elicited on the trial of such of their agents as have been apprehended and convicted. Some of the officers thus implicated are of high official position, and many of them beyond our jurisdiction, so that legal proceedings could not reach the source of the mischief."

"These considerations, and the fact that the cause of complaint was not a mere casual occurrence, but a deliberate design, entered upon with a full knowledge of our laws and national policy, and conducted by responsible public functionaries, impelled me to present the case to the British Government, in order to secure not only a cessation of the wrong, but its reparation. The subject is still under discussion, the result of which will be communicated to you in due time."

In the House of Representatives on the 31st ult., after a fierce debate and much squabbling about Parliamentary rules, it was decided by a vote of 126 against 87 that the Message should not be read until the House was organized.

INDIA.

SUPPRESSION OF THE SANTAL INSURRECTION.

By the last Overland Mail, we have the following particulars respecting the Santal rebellion, from Bombay, dated December 17:—

The Sontal insurrection seems now over; the last of the insurgents in the field have been surrounded, and Kanoo, the only leader of note yet remaining among them, has been captured. The troops, it is supposed, will be suffered to return to quarters, the police being considered sufficient from henceforth to maintain the peace. On the 20th of November a body of troops were despatched to Rovadungal, and though none were found at this particular point, their track was discovered by men sent up in the trees. The troops pushed on and found themselves, all at once, to their surprise, in the centre of a great encampment with the cooking-pots still on the fire, and which had not been abandoned for above ten minutes. The insurgents, to the amount of about 1,500, were scattered in parties of from 200 or 300 in the brushwood all around, over a space of four or five square miles in extent. The troops at length came in contact with them, plunged into a tremendous bamboo jungle, and drove the Sontals before them. They finished by burning from twenty to twenty-five villages, and by showing the enemy that none of their fastnesses were impenetrable. On the 29th detachments were sent out by General Lloyd, if possible to capture the remaining insurgents, and in this they were entirely successful, Ensign Allen having arrived the following day, with all the most important prisoners in charge, Kanoo included. We have since our last had no disturbances of any kind in any part of India.

An expedition is said to be in preparation against the robber chief Saadut Khan, whose people still threaten to molest us.

A temporary tranquillity reigns in Oude, under the fear on both sides that an uproar will be the signal for coercion.

The Rajpoot state of Oodeypore, one of the oldest and best governed in India, has been of late threatened with civil war, in consequence of misunderstandings amongst the chiefs themselves, and betwixt a portion of them and their sovereign.¹⁴

Lord Dalhousie arrived in Calcutta on the 29th of November, in excellent health and spirits. He has been absent from the capital ten months.

HERAT.

The last Indian mail brought the following intelligence from Cabul respecting the affairs at Herat to November 1st:

The intelligence from Herat is horrible: the whole of Yar Mahomed's family, old and young, have been put to death, except the mother of the two princes who were recently murdered by the Persian troops. She had great influence in Herat; in fact, she administered the affairs of the state, and was called 'the Nawab of Herat.' Her life was spared with a view of extorting from her the treasure she was known to have possessed; but she was prepared for this, for on the murder of her two sons she collected all her jewels and burnt them, and allowed her slaves to distribute the spoil among themselves. She is now tortured with red hot irons to give up her hidden wealth. We do not apprehend immediate hostility unless the Persians advance beyond Herat. With Herat itself Dost Mahomed and his allies have strictly nothing to do; and we doubt much whether the British lion will stretch out his paw until a more satisfactory cause be established. The news from Candahar is of a very warlike nature. Now that Herat is taken by the Suddoojees, the inveterate enemies of the Barukzies, Dost Mahomed has addressed his brothers of Candahar, entreating them to forget all former disagreements, and join together to prevent the encroachments of the common enemy.¹⁵

The War.

OPERATIONS IN THE CRIMEA.

THE RECENT CHARGE OF DRUNKENNESS IN THE ARMY.

GENERAL SIR W. CODRINGTON, in his despatch to Lord Panmure, dated Sebastopol, Dec. 27, says:

I now state, that returns are in my possession from every regiment of all cases of drunkenness tried by court-martial, as well as those settled at the regimental orderly rooms, for three months. It was during this time that arrears of field allowance, more than £2 each man, were received as back pay, besides 10,000 men receiving additional working pay; and yet the result is that, including artillery, sappers, and infantry, the number of crimes of drunkenness (and these are many more than the mere drunk) is a little above one man in two days per company, estimated at 100 men.

No doubt there are many facilities in all these open and crowded camps, for drunken men to get in without being seen. They do so, and escape observation. But suppose we double, or treble these numbers—which are taken from official returns—and I suspect the army will bear comparison with many towns, many villages, many populations of Great Britain.

THE CAVALRY ENGAGEMENT NEAR KERTCH.

Dec. 22.—An infantry foraging party was despatched a few days ago from Kertch to bring in a quantity of hay and straw, from a place called the Spanish Farm, about five miles from Kertch. Parties of the enemy's Cossacks had for some days been prowling about in the neighbourhood, with the view of seizing any opportunity that might offer to set fire to the forage in question, but wisely kept at a safe distance till daylight of the 16th inst. On that day, however, scattered twos and threes of them made a nearer appearance; and Major M'Donald, who commands the Turkish cavalry detachment accompanying the force, went out with his party of eighty lancers to beat them off and reconnoitre. After riding some couple of miles in a westerly direction, he fell in with the Russian videttes, who retired as his party approached; but, very quickly after, numerous small bodies of the enemy's regular cavalry galloped into view from different directions, and uniting, made a force of about 400 dragoons. This unexpected discovery left no option but to fall back on the farm, and this Major M'Donald accordingly attempted to do, but the Russian horsemen gave rapid chase, and with their long pieces kept up a galling fire, to which the short carbines of the pursued could make no effective reply. Better mounted, too, they succeeded in outflanking our men, and by this threatened to make prisoners of the whole. The moment was critical; but Major M'Donald, with a courage above praise, resolved to imitate the desperate bravery of the 10th Hussars, some months ago, under nearly similar circumstances, and to cut his way through, or fall in the attempt. Forming his little squadron, therefore, he dashed forward at their head against the gleaming barrier of hostile sabres, and, being admirably supported by his men, hewed open a way for nearly the whole, with a cost to the Russians of some twenty killed and wounded. But the enemy speedily recovered from their confusion, gave renewed chase, with a flying fire as before, and again turned the flank of the hard-pressed Turks and their British leader. The escape which had been hoped for from the first desperate effort now seemed impossible; but, with a heroism even greater than before, Major M'Donald determined to make one more blow for the lives and freedom of his party. Pulling up for a moment, he hastily formed, and again rushed *ventre à terre*, against the enemy. A fierce hand-to-hand fight then took place, and after some twenty minutes of as desperate sabre and lance-thrusting as the present war has yet seen, the heroic Scotchman and forty of his little band again cut a passage through, leaving poor Captain Sherrard, his second in command, and as many more dead and dying in the enemy's hands. Some minutes elapsed before the well-mauled Russians could renew the pursuit, and this short interval sufficed to give our men headway enough to render further chase hopeless: still the enemy pressed on, and only gave up the game within a mile of the camp outside the town, about three o'clock in the afternoon. On the following day a flag of truce was sent out from Kertch, when it was ascertained that poor Sherrard and five men had been killed, whilst the whole of the remaining thirty-five were very badly wounded. Since then no further collision has taken place, the infantry party at the Farm having been permitted to come in without any attempt at molestation.

ATTACK ON RUSSIAN OUTPOSTS.

Marshal Pelissier, writing to the French Minister of War, under date of December 28, says:

"Being informed that a post of eighty foot soldiers of the Smolensk Regiment and twenty Don Cossacks, was established on a hill situated 500 metres from the gorge of Cardonne Bell, General D'Autemarre authorised Lieutenant-Colonel Lacretelle to make an attempt for the purpose of carrying this post with two companies of Light Infantry attached to our outposts."

"The ice, which impeded the march of the men over these difficult grounds, was nearly proving an insurmountable obstacle more than once. Nevertheless, the operation proved successful; eighteen Russians were attacked at the point of the bayonet, and killed on the spot, whilst endeavouring to defend themselves; eighteen others were made prisoners. The Cossacks had fallen back at nightfall on Kokloz; only two of them had remained with this advanced post. They were taken, as likewise their horses, by our men, who, moreover, brought back with them about thirty weapons of various kinds."

FURTHER DESTRUCTION OF THE SEBASTOPOL DOCKS.

Jan. 1.—The demolition of the French east dock—or "Steamer Dock," as it is called, for it contains the remains of the paddle steamer, which was brought from Sinope and set fire to by the Russians on the 9th of September, has been complete. The quantity of powder expended in blowing up this dock alone was 10,000 lbs., with 33 charges in all. The 12 side charges were each 500 lbs. Behind the steps leading down to the bottom of the dock there were one charge of 1,000 lbs. and two of 500 lbs. of powder each. The remaining charges averaged about 110 lbs. each. After the Russians had fired a few badly aimed shells, and the French and English engineers had examined the *débris*, the former again fired the four charges that had not gone off. After the lapse of a few minutes, these exploded, and thus the west and east docks of the French half, together with the left side of the large basin, even to the gates, were completely destroyed. Sir W. Codrington now asked Colonel Lloyd how long he thought it would be before our engineers would be ready to blow up the bottom of their east dock. The answer was, "As soon as Mr. Dean, who has charge of the voltaic batteries, is ready." Mr. Dean, on being asked, stated he could not be ready for two hours; and at this time it was about two. Our three docks, on account of being about four feet lower than the two French docks and entrance, have about half a foot of water in each of them. As a result of this, great difficulties had to be contended with; and, owing to the severity of the weather, the sappers have suffered terribly, both by night and day. At about five the wires and cables appeared to be getting fixed. The bunk where Mr. Dean had his ten voltaic batteries, and from which he fired the mines, was on the other side of the dockyard high white wall, and up a steep hill. In the bottom of the dock were ten charges, each of 162 lbs. These were connected by electric wires to the two cables, making five wires for each cable, and these two cables, with an electric wire inside, ran up the hill through holes in the wall to Mr. Dean's bunk. Just before the explosion, the force of the electricity was tested at the end of the cables, which were about 100 yards long. At 20 minutes past five o'clock, just before dark, Private Sulley, tinsmith by trade, of the 10th company of Sappers, was ordered by Major Nicholson to connect the ten wires to the two cables. In another two minutes all had cleared away. The moment the word "all right" was passed up to Mr. Dean, eight of the ten charges blew up, which were quite sufficient completely to destroy the bottom of this dock. The latter was 191 feet long on the stone skids at bottom, 40 feet wide, and 29 feet deep. At top it is 238 feet long and 95 feet 4 inches wide. The revetment at top was 6 feet 8 inches broad. Our centre dock, which in all probability will have its bottom blown up to-morrow evening, is 236 feet long, and the west dock is 233 feet. There is every reason to expect that in another fortnight the whole of the Sebastopol docks will be totally worthless for any purpose whatever.

THE ARMY IN THE CAUCASUS.

THE RETREAT OF THE TURKS.

Ziewie, Dec. 12.—The Russians have allowed us to effect our retreat almost without molestation. Upon the first night of our march a few mounted Georgian militia, who, it appears, had been for some days hanging upon our flank, encountered four companies of our rifles, and a platoon of cavalry, who had been sent out to reconnoitre. Upon hearing the fire, Colonel Ballard went out with four more companies of rifles, and found the combatants *vis-à-vis* in some open country, firing at one another at a very long range; upon the appearance of the supports the Georgians retired, having lost about 12 men. There was no casualty on the side of the Turks. Since then the enemy has been hanging upon our rear, but beyond cutting off two or three stragglers and leaving their headless trunks as evidence of their barbarity, their proximity has not been attended with any serious inconvenience.

THE WINTER QUARTERS.

Redout-Kaleh, Dec. 20.—The terrific storms of the last week have obliged all the steamers to get under way, and seek at Batoum that shelter which the open roadstead here does not afford. The army has gone into winter quarters at Choloni, four miles to the rear of Ziewie, where the formation of the country offers great natural advantages of position. Unless the weather improves, the communication between the camp and the coast will be maintained with considerable difficulty. In order to relieve the transport service, part of the army has been moved to a village half-way between Choloni and Redoubt-Kaleh, to which point there is water-carriage by the river Chopi.

OMAR PACHA AND PRINCE GREGORY.

Omar Pacha has established himself at Redoubt-Kaleh for the present, and is engaged in completing his winter commissariat arrangements. It will require all his Highness's powers of organisation to meet the exigencies for which he is called upon to provide. Meanwhile the enemy has not been idle. Finding that it was useless attempting to harass the main body of the army, Prince Gregory (the brother of the Princess Dadian), at the head of about 500 Georgian and Imeritan militia, surrounded Sugdidi, and, forcing the unfortunate inhabitants of the neighbouring villages to take up arms, under threat of burning down their houses in case of refusal, he led an armed mob into the town in the middle of the night, and surprised an unfortunate garrison of 180 Turkish soldiers who had been left there invalided. Three or four of these were killed, and 32 taken prisoners in their beds, before the alarm had thoroughly aroused the remainder. These assembled hastily in the square before the Princess's palace, and not only offered a stout resistance, but charged their numerous enemy, who crowded the narrow streets, with such determination, that they killed 60 of them, among whom were eight beys, and utterly routed the whole force: after which they barricaded themselves in the palace, from which place a messenger was despatched to Omar Pacha asking for relief, at the same time assuring him they were provisioned and prepared for a long resistance. Gregory, finding it was hopeless to attempt to dislodge these brave men, turned his arms against a Mingrelian Bey who had taken up arms with the Turks, and obliged him to fortify himself with his retainers in his romantic fortress, which crowns a hill-top, in regular feudal style. He, too, has applied for assistance, and Skender Pacha was sent to the relief of both parties. That enterprising General, getting information of the presence of the enemy within a few miles of the camp, went out to meet them with a regiment of cavalry and a battalion of rifles under Colonel Ballard; placing the rifles in ambush, he advanced with his cavalry upon Prince Gregory. Seeing the small force which was opposed to him, the Prince charged the cavalry, which retreated until the enemy was fairly in the trap, when the order was given to fire, and a storm of Minié bullets emptied a hundred saddles on the spot; the remainder precipitately took to their heels. Skender Pacha then proceeded to Sugdidi. This summary chastisement will doubtless produce a wholesome effect upon the enemy, but it is more difficult to know how the people of the country are to be treated.

DESTRUCTION OF PIRATES IN THE CHINESE SEAS.

DESPATCHES have been received by the Admiralty from Sir James Stirling, Commander-in-Chief of her Majesty's sloops and vessels on the East India and China station, detailing the particulars of some most successful engagements with the pirates, who for some time have infested the Chinese seas, and inflicted considerable loss on the commerce of that part of the world. One of the attacks was planned and directed by Commander William Abby Fellowes, and the other by Commander Edward Westby Vansittart, both of whom have, in consideration of the services which they have rendered, been promoted to the rank of captain. The names of James, boatswain of the *Rattler*, Mr. Brownson, and Mr. G. R. Newton, the acting and assistant-surgeons of the *Bittern*, are also most honourably mentioned. The despatches also speak in high terms of the valuable aid afforded by the crew of the United States frigate *Powhatan*. The following is a summary of the official despatches from Captains Fellowes and Vansittart, narrating the circumstances connected with the destruction of these pirates:

Towards the conclusion of the month of May Captain Fellowes, in the *Rattler*, had made a successful attack upon some pirates at Samchow, destroying many of their junks. Another similar operation followed in June. At the end of July this active officer received tidings of the proximity of

a piratical flotilla of a far more formidable character, and returned to Hongkong to take his measures. He had an interview with Captain M'Cluney, of the United States frigate *Powhatan*, who placed at his disposal a volunteer force, consisting of two paddlebox boats and a cutter, with 60 seamen and 28 marines, under the command of Lieutenant Peagram. With this assistance Captain Fellowes hurried off to the creeks in which the pirates had concealed themselves. After some futile endeavours to effect their escape, the piratical junks, 34 in number, and heavily armed, made a stand, and attempted to crush the allied boats with the fire of their broadsides. The boats, however, rapidly pulled up to them amid showers of shot, and the junks were carried. Nine of these were war-junks, mounting 130 guns in all. The fleet had been manned, according to the estimate of Captain Fellowes, by a force of not less than 1,000 men. He calculates, further, that not less than 500 of these were killed, wounded, or drowned—so well directed had been the shell and grape from the boats' guns and the musketry of the marines. It was indeed a stern lesson, but one richly deserved. Who can calculate the amount of misery and bloodshed inflicted upon inoffensive traders by these ruffians in the course of their career? They had succeeded in obtaining armaments of no insignificant character, for Captain Fellowes speaks of a 68-pounder, of a large 18-pounder, weighing 50 cwt., 32, 24, 12, and 6 pounders. One junk had 21 guns mounted. The officers and seamen of the United States contingent fought throughout with distinguished gallantry, and contributed in no inconsiderable degree to the success of the day.

The scene of Captain Vansittart's operations was in the Bay of Leoutung. He started on the 7th of August last from Woosung, his sloop being in tow of the *Confucius* steamer, which had been manned from the United States frigate *Macedonia*. The *Pavushan*, a small steamer, which was manned by persons interested in the success of the operations, was subsequently added to the force with which Captain Vansittart proceeded in search of the pirates. When he came upon them, the piratical flotilla formed in two divisions, and bore down in good style upon the *Bittern* and the steamers. But here we must quote the words of the despatch:

"Passing through Mid-Tao Strait, and striking northward for Rosa Bay in the Gulf of Ieoutung, at length, on the 18th ult., the pirates were observed in the unexplored bight northward of that bay, ending in the sizeable river which leads to the city of Fuchan; the *Pavushan* having towed us in, we still found ourselves obliged to anchor between two and three miles outside the pirates, in two and a half fathoms; the boats returned with soundings that rendered it doubtful if they could be approached, although over the bar of two fathoms, at about half a mile distant from the pirate fleet, we found a hole of three fathoms, which was buoyed after dark.

"On the following morning the pirates, numbering from 30 to 40, including two lorcha with canvas sails, formed two divisions, and with a leading wind bore down in pretty style, and opened a respectable fire on her Majesty's sloop, which weighed and stood off to lead them out. I tacked and returned their fire, perhaps somewhat too soon, although they had already struck the ship, and continued working their guns with spirit; for they then began a clever manoeuvre, joined their two divisions, and, running for shoal water and a reef, kept in such a position that it was necessary to yaw up to bring our guns to bear, each time increasing our distance and improving their chances of escape. Owing to the continued down-pour of rain and misty weather, it was difficult to count the exact force opposed to us, but that Europeans served the guns of the two largest seems highly probable; for, having obtained their range, they continued firing until they were dismantled and in a sinking state. As one boat was disabled another would take it in tow, and, although surrounded with wreck, I was glad to heave aback, and work out of a dangerous corner into which they had led us, without taking possession of any of their vessels; eight of their number, however, were sunk or abandoned.

"Having communicated with the authorities, on the following morning we proceeded northward to release the merchant fleets. These we found had taken shelter high up various streams; upwards of 100 of them in a river leading to the city of New Chang, off which we anchored in 42 fathoms, in lat. 40° 38' N., long. 122° 0' E., eight miles distant from the low entrance to the river. Between two and three miles within the bar is the seaport itself, of respectable size, with large establishments of grain. Here we learned the pirates had already been, and disappointed in obtaining their calculated ransom (the junks that had ventured past them having paid £1,000 dollars each, others having been burned that had not the money), they seized a Chinese of no great rank, and, quartering him, sent his remains on shore in a basket to the authorities, with a threat that, unless 100,000 dollars were immediately forthcoming, they would treat the mandarins in the same way. Having obtained their booty, they were loitering on the coast for merchant craft when we fell in with them.

"Turning to the southward and searching various corners, we came up with thirteen of the fleet, westward of Mid-Tao Strait, and the day being favourable, secured eleven of them, which I sank or burned; one only surrendered herself, was taken in and given over to the authorities at Tungchow-foo; this, quite one of the smallest, had a crew of 41. The prisoners assured our interpreter that a lorcha which was one of the number this day captured a white man and two Portuguese as part crew, and that they escaped to the hills on our leaving her stranded to secure others making off with sweeps. She did on this occasion return our fire, but when on shore, after having suffered severely from its effects, opened with her big gun upon the country people, and, clearing a lane, a great part of her crew got away, armed with baggage.

"Finally, on the 30th ult., northward of Staunton Island, we overtook another of the fleet, the crew of which must have been prepared to land, and, expecting an attack by boats, would have blown the boarders up; for, no sooner did our shot pass through her than the crew took to the water, and, landing with spears, made for the hills; one man remaining aft, threw a fire-ball forward, and sprang overboard immediately before the explosion took place. This completed twenty out of a well-provided daring fleet that we were enabled to destroy, besides, probably, having inflicted considerable damage on many that escaped us during the thick weather of the 19th ult.

"It is impossible to estimate the amount of trade thrown open for the present, if Chinese are to be credited, fully to the value of 2,000,000 dols. or 3,000,000 dols. The prisoners talked of 200,000 dols. having been among the fleet, and assured us a considerable portion of it went down in the largest of their vessels, which had sustained their fire with such spirit. It would have been well to bring away the heavier guns, but the delay would have cost us some of the fleet. The officers saw quantities of rich furs and other booty on board those vessels which they burnt.

"I am happy to say none of our people were wounded; one man only was hurt in a trifling manner; a round shot took an awkward score between two and three inches deep out of the bowsprit, besides rending the spar; the carpenter tells me it can be rendered permanently secure by a fish we have prepared."

CONVENTION BETWEEN HER MAJESTY AND THE EMPEROR OF JAPAN.

ACCORDING to the "Gazette" of Tuesday last, a Convention for regulating the admission of British ships into the ports of Japan, has been agreed upon between Sir James Stirling, Knight, Rear-Admiral, and Commander-in-Chief of the ships and vessels of her Britannic Majesty in the East Indies and seas adjacent, and Mezi-no Chekfu-no Kami, Obunyo of Nagasaki, and Nagai Evan Ocho, Omedski of Nagasaki, ordered by his Imperial Highness the Emperor of Japan. After the date of the Convention, Oct. 9, 1855:

"The ports of Nagasaki (Fisen) and Hakodadi (Matsmai) shall be open to British ships for the purpose of effecting repairs, and obtaining fresh water, provisions, and other supplies of any sort they may absolutely want for the use of the ships.

"In the ports of Japan, either now open, or which may hereafter be opened, to the ships or subjects of any foreign nation, British ships and subjects shall be entitled to admission, and to the enjoyment of an equality of advantages according to the Dutch and Chinese from their existing relations with Japan.

"This Convention shall be ratified, and the ratifications shall be exchanged at Nagasaki on behalf of her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, and on behalf of his Highness the Emperor of Japan, within twelve months from the present date.

"When this Convention shall be ratified, no high officer coming to Japan shall alter it."

RUSSIAN PREPARATIONS IN THE BALTIC.—A letter from St. Petersburg of the 2nd inst. says:—"One of the points of the empire which it has appeared to the Russian Government will be particularly open to the attacks of the Allied fleets in the next campaign will be Archangel, the principal Russian establishment in the White Sea. The Council of War, during its recent deliberations, decided on having a supplementary line of defences constructed, and several batteries erected and mounted with guns of the very longest range. Orders have been given for conveying over the snow in sledges to Archangel 42 pieces of artillery of large calibre, and owners of those vehicles have been called on to send in tenders for the transport both of these guns and of a variety of warlike stores. It is expected that 10,000 militia will be stationed on the banks of the Neva, between the capital and Cronstadt."

"THEY MANAGE THESE THINGS BETTER IN FRANCE."—A wine-dealer residing in the Rue St. Louis-au-Marais, was condemned the other day to 50f. fine and 15 days' imprisonment, for adulterating his wine. The sentence of the court was also ordered to be printed and posted up at his door as a warning to his customers.

THE CASTLE OF SOURAM.

HAD Kars held out, and Omar Pacha been enabled to pursue his contemplated advance on Kutais and thence to Tiflis, the Russian headquarters in Georgia, the Turkish General's line of march would have led him past the imposing and interesting ruins of the ancient Castle of Souram. According to trustworthy historians, this once formidable fortress must have been built in the second century before Christ, by King Pharnadjam, of the second Georgian dynasty. It crowns an isolated rock, which rises like an island between the two arms of a small river. Here once lived a feudal lord—one of those despots whom the kings of Khartli had so much difficulty to keep in subjection. On the south-eastern side of the Castle may be seen an embattled wall, which almost appears to be a continuation of the rock itself. Tradition says that one of the lords of Souram bestowed great labour on the construction of this wall, which was to perfect the defence of his fortress. Although he selected the best materials, and superintended the works himself, this labour was all in vain, for before the work was half completed, it gave way. Again and again the work was resumed, but always with the same result. The architect at length declared that there was only one way of destroying the charm that operated against their labours, and this he stated had been revealed to him in a dream. An only son was to be buried below the foundation.

Great was the astonishment of the work people when they heard of this new principle in architecture; but they soon enough became resigned to the disagreeable contingency, when they recollect that not one of them had an only son. The more enthusiastic among this tribe of masons soon succeeded, however, in discovering a poor widow, with an only son, on whom she entirely depended for her support. The youth was sacrificed to fulfil the required conditions, and was buried alive in accordance with the architect's directions. The wall was thereupon completed without further difficulty, and, to this day, it stands; but it has never thoroughly dried, and the water which oozes through its sides, is said to be the tears shed by the poor mother. An old song, well-known around Souram, explains the sorrows of the poor widow, who talks to her son Zaourab during the fearful operation. She asks him if he hears her—if he is still alive; and at the end of various verses, Zaourab replies that he is, alas! buried up to the waist, then to the neck, and he takes his final leave, uttering this exclamation, "Now, mother, all is over!"

Such is the singular legend attached to the Castle of Souram, before which the Georgians of the present day, or their Russian rulers, alike pass

CASTLE OF SOURAM, GEORGIA.—(FROM A SKETCH BY PRINCE GAGARIN.)

with indifference on their way from Gori' to Al'haltsik, or from Kutais to Tiflis. The castle is now nothing more than a ruin, infested with night birds, which abound in the Caucasus, and more particularly in Georgia Proper—that kingdom so rich and powerful before the devastations committed by Mongols, the Persians, and the Turks, and, we fear, we must add, lastly by the Russians.

Souram, the Sivirum of Pliny, is about a dozen miles from the Pass of Gado, which separates Georgia from Imeritia. Through this Pass lay the

highway of the commerce between the Grecian colonies of the Black Sea and Persia. Souram is watered by a small river of the same name, which discharges itself a little lower down into the Kour. The surrounding country is very fertile, for hereabouts is produced the finest wheat which is grown in Georgia, although the plain of Cartaline, on which Souram stands, has a considerable elevation, and Souram itself is 2,113 feet above the level of the Black Sea. At the present time the village contains about 980 inhabitants, and consists of merely a few buildings belonging to the Government, and the necessary divans, surrounding which are some thirty Georgian ruins, which may be compared to the tombs of South America.

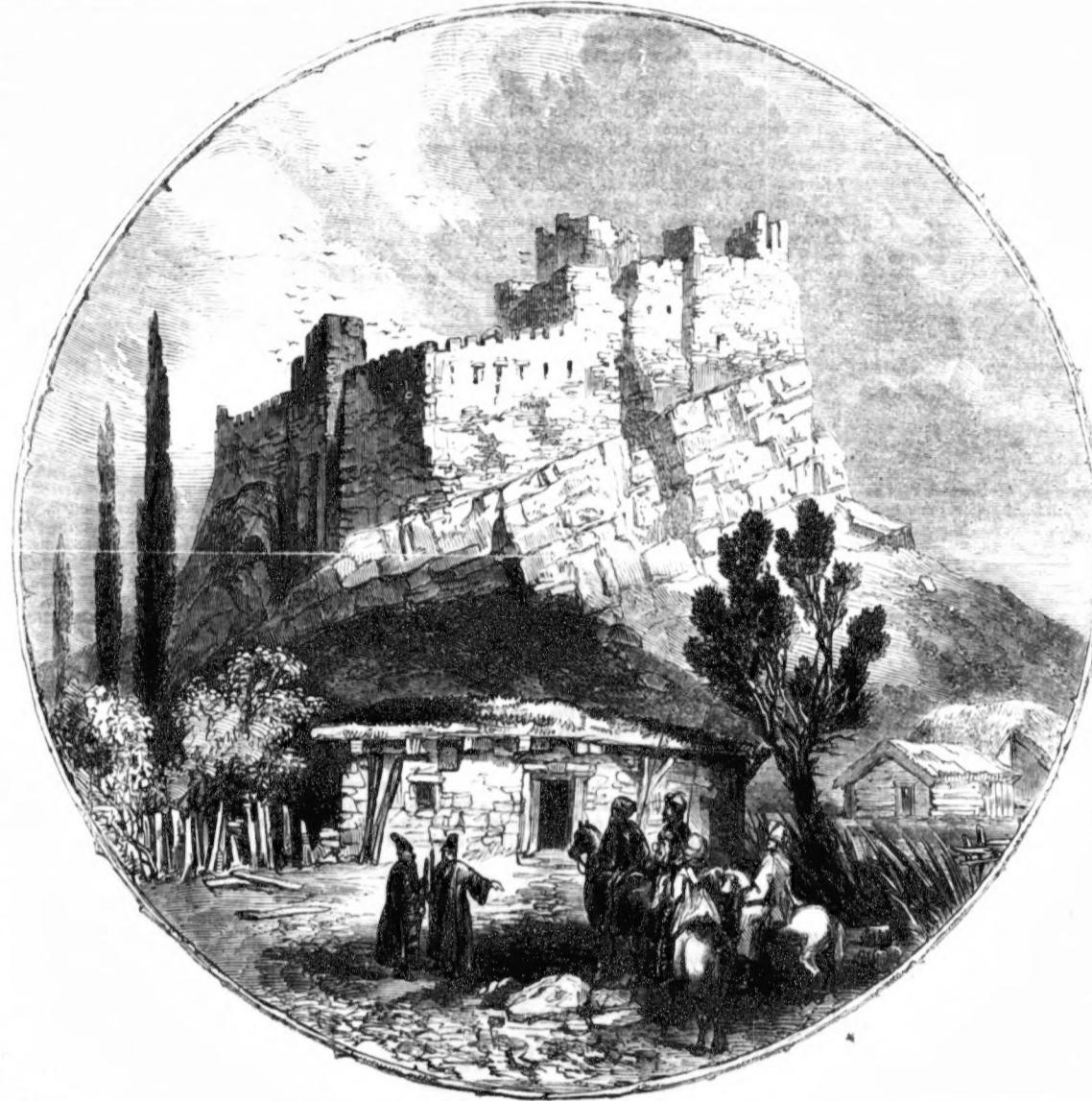
DRAINING THE BALACLAVA RAILWAY.

IN the vicinity of Balaclava, when the year was drawing to a close, and the rains heavy, and the weather threatening, work of every kind was pushed forward by our troops with vigour, energy, and rapidity. The suffering of last winter taught people lessons which they would have been slow to learn from a less impious monitor. The roads were severely tried, and attracted much interest, particularly the railway, on which so much depended.

This iron road, indeed, is represented to have yielded but a poor return for the original contract (£200,000), an amount, by-the-by, not covering any of the extra labour or material used since the single line was first laid down. The locomotives whistling on the line—the Alliance, the Victory—which recalled the familiar sounds of Wolverhampton or of Dideot, and made listeners believe, for a moment, that they were in a civilised country, were not to be taken as material guarantees for the possession of comforts in the coming winter.

In fact, when December arrived, this railway, described about this time last year as in its "babyness," became quite useless, owing to the destruction of trucks, and the Land Transport Corps began to complain bitterly of the discreditable, worthless, and rotten carts sent out to them from England.

The effect of the mud and wet Transport Corps was distressing. Notwithstanding the numerous good roads through the camps, there were tracts to be traversed by thousands of animals under their burdens which were exceedingly deep and heavy. There were two men to every three horses or mules; but then these men were barely sufficient to perform long marches, from the divisional camps to Balaclava and back again, and afterwards to clean and attend to the animals. In some muddy pool or in some deep scarp on the hillside the



DRAINING THE BALACLAVA RAILWAY.—(SKETCHED BY LIEUT. HARVEY, 77TH REGIMENT.)

poor animal, after, perhaps, standing in uncovered stables all night, and badly groomed or not rubbed down, sunk beneath its load, and dies in lingering agony. It is not permitted to shoot these wretched creatures—why, one cannot say. People residing near the Fourth Division camp will remember the skeleton spectre of a melancholy gray quadruped with a sore back, which haunted the camp for weeks before it died in a ditch. It had been turned loose to live or perish, and it was a shocking sight to behold the dogs leaping up against it to lick its sores; but there it stood for days, with its legs drawn close together, and no one ventured to put it out of pain. These spectacles, on being renewed, recall the horrors of last winter. Every one exclaimed, "How fortunate that Sebastopol has fallen! What should we have done had we to guard the trenches this winter?"

Such being the state of matters, a little drainage became necessary. Accordingly a main drain was cut down the centre of the valley, running

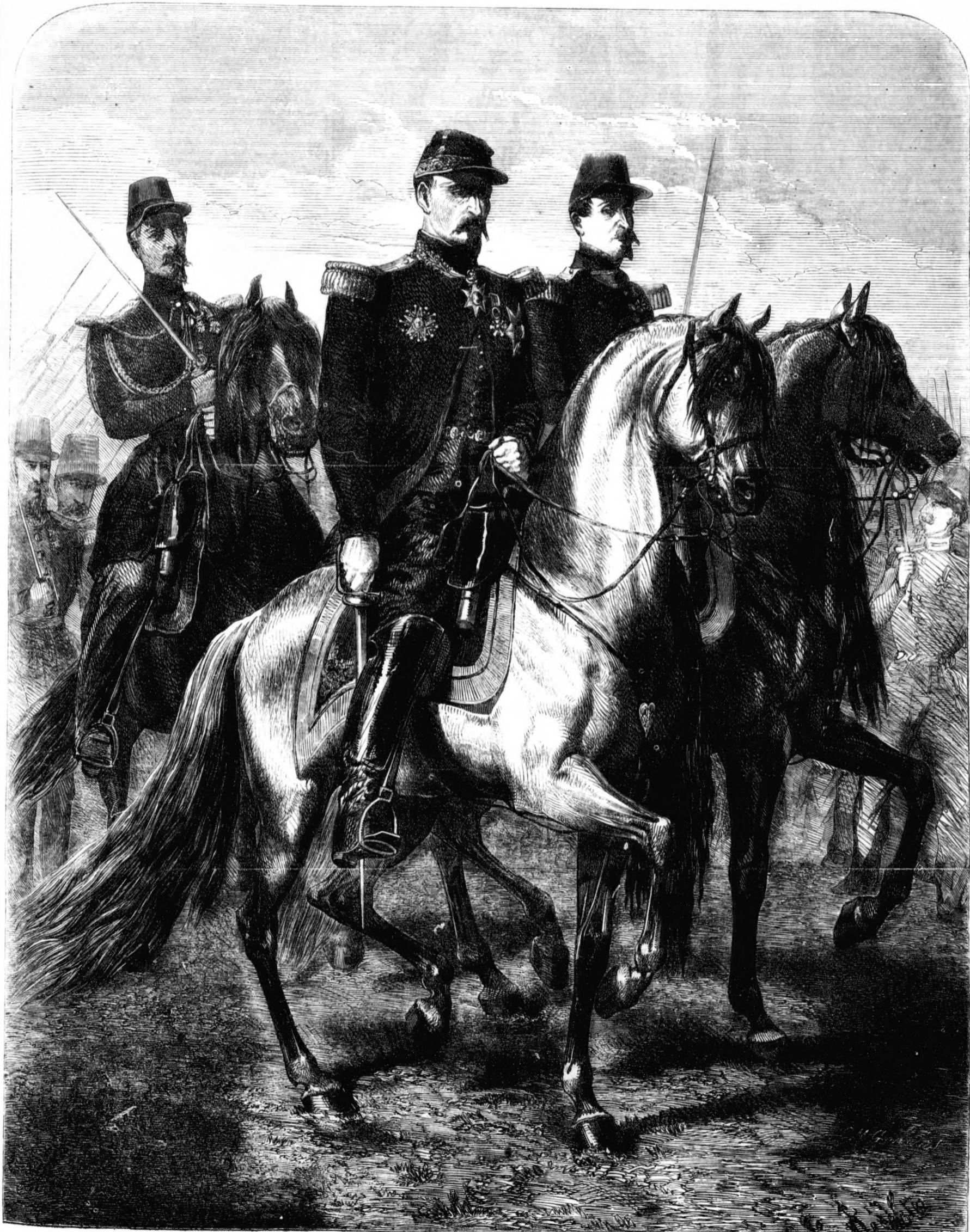
into the head of Balaklava harbour, to intercept all water flowing from the east of it, and free the road and railway drains rapidly from the rain water. The road was made parallel to the railway, the material over which it passes being deep, spongy, vegetable soil, easily drained in its natural state, but very retentive if worked up under wet. Drains four feet deep were cut at 40 feet apart, and the surface between rounded to a foot higher at the centre. Cross-drains were cut at every 44 yards, connecting main drains, and the large stone pitching, 28 feet wide, was filled in with smaller stones, and afterwards Macadamised. Before laying on the pitching, the whole traffic of the camp was turned over the formed surface for five days to beat it down, and to consolidate it, a strong force of navvies being employed in the morning and evening to keep up the proper form. Our sketch will give a lively idea of this operation.

"I send you," writes the gentleman to whose pencil we are indebted for

so interesting a little picture of Crimean life, "a sketch of the working party I was on to drain the railway. The roads are being in like manner well drained, to resist any amount of rain. All the stones taken up in digging are thrown upon the sleepers as ballast. On the left are a few of the men cooking the dinner for the company to which they belong."

GENERAL BOSQUET.

ON the evening of Monday, the 7th inst., there was a grand ball at the Palace of the Tuilleries; some five thousand persons were present, and conspicuous in the brilliant assemblage were the Crimean generals in their full uniform. Among these, the one who attracted most attention was General Bosquet, who had arrived in Paris on the previous day. The Emperor gave his arm to General Bosquet, walked up and down with him for a long



THE BRAVE GENERAL BOSQUET.

time, and is reported to have said, "General, you must get quite well as soon as possible, for I want to fight side by side with you in the next campaign."

General Bosquet is one of the most honest and interesting of public characters, and his fame has been as fairly won as it is extensive. His exploits in Africa are well known. At the Alma and at Inkermann, he had the credit of turning the fortune of the day. Last winter, when the aspect of affairs became so dismal, he was spoken of as the man destined to bring the siege of Sebastopol to a successful termination. More recently, his name has been in every mouth, as a victorious leader of that impetuous assault which placed the Malakoff in possession of the French, and led to the evacuation of Sebastopol by the Russians. We avail ourselves of this distinguished personage's appearance in Paris, to present our readers with a portrait of him, and such a sketch of his military career as our limits permit.

In the year 1810, when Napoleon Bonaparte was lord of the ascendant, the iron crown of the Lombard kings on his head, the sceptre of France in his hand, the Empire of Charlemagne within his grasp, a daughter of the House of Hapsburg sharing his throne, and the Kings and Emperors of Continental Europe crouching at his feet, Bosquet drew his first breath at Pau, in the Department of the Lower Pyrenees. He was just two years of age, when the calamities of the Russian campaign prepared the great Corsican's downfall; and he had entered on his second lustre, when the Battle of Waterloo restored the Bourbons to France and peace to Europe. Nevertheless, Bosquet heard enough of war and rumours of war to make him ambitious of figuring as a soldier of France; and accordingly, before emerging from his teens, he was entered as a student at the Polytechnic school, at Paris.

While he was residing at that seminary, and making himself acquainted with the rudiments of the military art, the expedition to Algiers, in 1830, opened up to the martial adventurers of France, a field in which to struggle for fame and fortune; and Bosquet, having spent four years as a student at the Polytechnic, and twelve months as a sub-lieutenant, in garrison, at Valence, proceeded with his regiment, in 1835, to the scene of war.

The young officer soon distinguished himself among his light, gay, and volatile comrades in arms, and acquired influence over the soldiers under his command, by his repose of manner, his calmness of demeanour, and his firmness of purpose. He rose rapidly in his profession. He became Lieutenant, in 1836; Captain, in 1839; Chef de Bataillon, in 1840; Lieutenant-Colonel, in 1845; and Colonel, in 1848; having, meanwhile, served in, or commanded, companies of the brave Zouaves, and several Regiments of the Line.

When the revolution of 1848 brought a republic into existence, Bosquet declared for the new order of things, and he was nominated a general of brigade by the Republican Government. He stuck to his political creed long after it went out of fashion, and moreover had the courage to manifest, unequivocally, his opposition to Louis Napoleon's assumption of the imperial dignity.

The result was such as, in these circumstances, might have been anticipated. The republican soldier was, in no respect, one of those men whom the Emperor of the French delighted to honour; and for a time, General Bosquet was consigned to obscurity. However, when the war against Russia was resolved on, and the army of the East was forming, the Emperor, taking into consideration the impolicy of depriving the Allied Powers of the services of so distinguished an officer, consented to repress his prejudices;—so General Bosquet was nominated to the command of a division, and the soldiers of France learned with delight that he was to share their dangers and partake of their glory.

From the day that the allied armies landed in the Crimea, General Bosquet proved himself well worthy of the exception which the Emperor had made in his favour. Marshal St. Arnaud, prompt to recognise such high military qualities as General Bosquet displayed, assigned to him the post of honour at the Alma. On that memorable occasion, he effected a flank movement on the left wing of the Russians, and, by such means, turned their batteries before the action became general; so that St. Arnaud had the gratification of writing to the Emperor—"General Bosquet manœuvred with equal intelligence and bravery; his movement decided the fate of the day." At Inkermann, when the English were in danger of being overpowered by the superior numbers of the barbarous enemy, he came, with six thousand troops, to the rescue, and aided in repelling the masses of the Russians. His fame soon reached this country. Lord Raglan wrote to the Minister of War—"I am proud of paying a tribute of admiration to the distinguished conduct of General Bosquet"; and both Houses of Parliament voted thanks to him in special resolutions.

On the 8th of September, 1855, when the decisive blow was struck, General Bosquet took a conspicuous part in the capture of the Malakoff; but while the French were making themselves masters of the stronghold which had cost them so many lives, the brave General was unfortunately struck by the bursting of a shell, and under the necessity of resigning his command; but he was not therefore deprived of the fame he was so justly entitled to. Intelligence of the skill and courage he had displayed, in due time reached his native land; and when Pelissier's despatch, attributing in a great measure to Bosquet the honours of the day, was published, it created quite a sensation in the brave General's birth-place, and a number of persons waited on his mother, Madame Bosquet, who still resides at Pau, to compliment her, and to congratulate her on her son having, although wounded in the arm, escaped a greater danger. The following message was sent by the Minister of War to the Prefect:—"Inform Madame Bosquet that her son, the General, is going on well, and that he hopes by the next mail to write to his mother with the hand of his contused arm."

Ere long, the Emperor of the French marked his appreciation of General Bosquet's gallant conduct, by a decree which elevated him to the dignity of Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour; and when, returning from the Crimea to recruit his health, General Bosquet landed at Marseilles, he was met by an orderly, who presented him with the military medal in token of the Emperor's esteem.

His journey to Pau was a series of magnificent ovations. At Montpellier, being recognised while leaving the Railway Station, he was loudly cheered. At Toulouse, an immense crowd awaited his arrival, and received with every mark of respect the noble soldier who covered himself with so much glory during the siege of Sebastopol. At Auch the Secretary-General of the Prefecture, in the absence of the Prefect, at once waited on the General to congratulate him on his arrival, and to express to him the admiration which all the inhabitants of the Gers entertained for the immense services rendered by him to France and to the Emperor. On hearing of the arrival of the General, the Mayor and the Municipal Council also visited him to offer similar congratulations. General Bosquet received the authorities with the greatest cordiality, and expressed himself, on the occasion, in the warmest terms of gratitude for all the manifestations of which he had been the object since his landing at Marseilles. But it was at Pau, where he is best known, that Bosquet's reception was most brilliant. A multitude on foot, on horseback, and in carriages, went out to meet him, and among them were most of the English residents. In passing through the town, loud cries of "Vive le General Bosquet!" were raised. The garden of the hotel was filled with persons who received the General with acclamations. The General presented himself on the balcony, accompanied by his mother, and he embraced her, as if to indicate that he gave to her the homage presented to him. The Philharmonic Society afterwards gave a serenade, and in the evening many houses, especially in the street occupied by his family, were illuminated in honour of the General's return, with so much renown, to the home where he had passed his infancy, where he had first felt the stirrings of ambition, and been inspired with the love of fame.

General Bosquet, we believe, after a few days repose under his mother's roof, went for a time to Eaux Chaudes, long famous for their efficacy in curing wounds.

Having been summoned from Pau to Paris by the Emperor Napoleon, to take part, as it appears, in the grand Council of War, he arrived in the French capital on the 6th instant, and, on the same day, was received at dinner at the Tuilleries. General Bosquet is described as a stout soldier-like man, who reminds people of the old *genre* of French marshals depicted at Versailles.

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

SUICIDE AT SOUTHAMPTON.—Edward Webb, a clerk at the railway office in the Southampton Docks, has committed suicide by cutting his throat so as very nearly to sever the head from the body. A few days previously he was in conversation with his fellow clerks about the approaching execution of Abraham Baker, and, among various opinions expressed as to the easiest mode of taking life, Webb stated that he thought the act might be more speedily committed by a well sharpened razor than by any other means.

REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS.—An appeal for assistance has been made on the part of a proposed Manchester and Salford Reformatory for Juvenile Criminals. A Boarded and Reformatory School has already been established; but the committee are desirous of erecting new buildings and enlarging their design, for which they will require additional funds. Mr. E. Denison, M.P., intends introducing a bill into Parliament next session to empower justices to establish reformatory schools, and to enable the levying of funds by an annual rate of one penny in the pound on all property rateable to the county rate, with a stipulation that certain expenses should be borne by the Government.

THE WIFE MURDER AT NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—The inquest on Beardmore has terminated in a verdict of Manslaughter against her husband.

ATTEMPTED ROBBERY NEAR LEEDS.—Early on Sunday morning the mill of Messrs. G. Crowther and Co., of Churwell, near Leeds, was broken into by six men, and an attempt was made to remove about £250 worth of cloth, but was prevented after a severe conflict, in which two or three of the men on each side were more or less injured. Five of the thieves, named William Cain, of Manchester; John Briggs, labourer, Armley, near Leeds; James Marsden, mason, Armley; John Pickard, a returned convict; and David Steel, a cartman in the employ of Messrs. Crowther, were apprehended. It appears that in consequence of information and of the numerous robberies that have taken place in the neighbourhood during the winter, John Holroyd and Lupton, constables of Morley, Samuel Hurst, David Loftus, George Richardson, and Joseph Crowther, were set to watch the premises on Saturday night. The prisoners were seen to enter the premises; and in the attempt to secure them the constables were knocked down several times, and had to use their staves very freely before they were able to overcome the resistance offered; the principal part of the contest being between Marsden, a tall, muscular fellow, and the two constables; and it was not until Marsden was disabled that he was secured. During the struggle one of the robbers escaped, and Steel attempted to follow, when he was shot in the right thigh, just below the hip. In the meantime Cain and Pickard were locked in the mill, and after their accomplices had been secured they surrendered without offering any opposition. It was then discovered that 27 ends of cloth had been removed to the lower storey. Steel was found to have sustained such injuries as to necessitate his immediate removal to the Leeds Infirmary, where he now lies in a precarious state. Marsden was also very much battered, and Richardson, one of the watchers, much injured. Upon the prisoners and the premises were found 11 skeleton keys. The prisoners appeared before the magistrate at Leeds on Monday last, and were remanded for a week.

A NEW INDIA RUBBER COLLAPSING MORTAR-BOAT.—The invention of the Rev. E. Berther, undergoing her final trial at Portsmouth, a few days since, split at the sides through the violence of the concussion caused by the mortar and sunk instantly, carrying twelve men down with her, one of whom was drowned.

THE LAND REVOLUTION IN THE WEST.—One of the Galway papers draws a glowing picture of the beneficial results effected by the labours of the Encumbered Estates Commission, and maintains that no part of Ireland has so signalised by its operations as the long-neglected province of Connacht:—"In these remote parts of the kingdom, where the old proprietor had become embarrassed by the results of the famine and other causes, a new race of landlords has been inaugurated, and in many instances the old inheritors have been relieved. It is but just to observe that on well-managed properties the operations of the court were not required, though old proprietors, in a few instances, sold and purchased again in order to obtain a better title. We could instance several important estates in this neighbourhood, which, from superior management, weathered the storm of famine and pestilence, and on which the tenantry are now among the most prosperous in the kingdom. Among these we may enumerate the estates of the Earl of Clanricarde, Lord Clonbrock, Mr. Denis H. Kelly, Lord Dunsandle, the Marquis of Clanricarde, Mr. Dudley Persse, &c. The former of these landlords has been steadily adding to his property, as portions of other estates were being offered for sale. It is gratifying to find that of the purchasers of the property in the Encumbered Estates Court a majority are Irishmen, some of them merchants, and many of them former tenants on the properties sold."

THE MURDER OF MISS HINDS.—There seems at length to be some chance of bringing the murderers of Miss Hinds, or some, at least, of those concerned in that barbarous crime, to justice. Seven persons have been arrested on the charge, and lodged in Cavan gaol; and, with one exception, all of them are tenants on the estate of the unfortunate lady.

THE RUGELEY POISONING CASES.

The inquests upon the bodies of Walter and Ann Palmer, the deceased brother and wife of William Palmer, of Rugeley, who has been committed upon the coroner's warrant, charged with the wilful murder of William Parsons Cook, were resumed on Friday of last week, in the Town Hall, Rugeley, before Mr. W. W. Ward, coroner, and a jury of twenty-two gentlemen, of whom Mr. W. Fowke was the foreman. Mr. J. Smith, of Birmingham, solicitor, was present to watch the case on behalf of William Palmer. A large number of assurance companies were represented by Mr. Deane, solicitor, of London; and Mr. Gardener, solicitor, of Stafford, conducted the case for the Crown.

Ann Rowley was first called, and deposed that she was a charwoman, and was for a long time frequently employed by William Palmer. During Mrs. Palmer's illness, he frequently took broth and other refreshments to her out of the kitchen. Witness attended Mrs. Palmer during her illness, and assisted to lay her out. There were no particular appearances about the body. Mrs. Bradshaw was the only nurse in the house at the time of Mrs. Palmer's death, and Eliza Tharne was the general servant. Witness saw the body this morning, and it was the same that she saw when the coffin was first opened after it was exhumed. It was the body of Mrs. Anne Palmer.

In cross-examination, the witness stated that, during the whole time of Mrs. Palmer's illness, and, indeed, ever since his marriage, Palmer appeared to live comfortably with his wife.

Eliza Tharne, the servant-girl, on being sworn, said—I live at Cosefield, I entered the service of the accused on New Year's Day, in the year 1854. I remember Mrs. Palmer being taken ill. It was at 5 o'clock on a Wednesday evening, Sept. 20, 1854. She was taken with sickness the next morning. She came home from Liverpool on the Wednesday evening, having left home on the previous Monday. When she came home, she complained of illness, and said that she thought she had taken cold. She went to bed at about half-past 9 o'clock. She did not take any refreshment before she went to bed, except some tea at half-past 5, which tea I prepared. She drank two cups of tea and ate some cold meat. On the following morning, I saw her between eight and nine o'clock, and she complained of being ill, but she did not know what was the matter with her. She was in bed. Shortly afterwards, Mr. Palmer took her up a cup of tea, without milk, but with sugar, and a little dry toast. I went up afterwards to ask if she would have some more tea. She said she would not. She had drunk the tea and had eaten a little of the toast; but she would not have any more. Between 10 and 12 o'clock, I went upstairs again, and asked how she was. She said she was **no** better, and complained of having been sick. I saw that she had vomited, but she had not been purged.

By a jurymen—Did you prepare the tea at night and in the morning?

Witness—Yes.

Examination resumed—I did not notice anything particular in the vomit. It was white, and was transparent, like water. I threw it away. No one told me to do so. No one else attended her during Wednesday but Mr. Palmer and myself. Mrs. Bradshaw came on the following Monday. Mr. Palmer saw the vomit, but made no remark. Mrs. Palmer continued sick at times during Wednesday and Thursday. I prepared the tea and broth and gruel, and such like things, that were taken up to Mrs. Palmer. On Friday the deceased continued in the same state. I did not attend her much in the latter part of her illness. The nurse came on the Monday after she returned from Liverpool, and attended upon her from that time; and after the nurse came I scarcely went into Mrs. Palmer's room. She never complained to me of any particular pain. During the time that I lived in her service, I never—except when she was confined—knew her to be ill. I have known Mr. Palmer occasionally take her refreshment during her confinements. When Mrs. Palmer died, I was in the house, but not in her room. She had no fits.

By Mr. Deane—There was no other servant in the house but myself; but I was occasionally assisted by Mrs. Rowley, the previous witness. Mr. Palmer was not at home when deceased left for Liverpool.

By the Coroner—He returned on Monday evening while I was away. He went out at six o'clock on the morning that Mrs. Palmer went. I don't know whether the journey was a pre-arranged one, or whether it was suddenly conceived. Mrs. Palmer left home about one or half-past one o'clock on Monday.

By Mr. Deane—Deceased returned home on the Wednesday, on the day that she was expected. Her little boy, aged seven years on the 11th of last October, went to the station to meet her. Mr. Palmer slept in his wife's room until the Monday before her death. After Mr. Bamford, the surgeon, came on the Sunday, a bottle of medicine and a box of pills were sent. The bottle was about the size of my finger, and I saw the medicine in Mr. Palmer's hands. I prepared gruel and tea for her on Friday and Saturday, and on one day ago. Dr. Knight came to the deceased after Mr. Bamford came. After Mrs. Bradshaw came she slept in the same room with the deceased. During the illness of the deceased, Mrs. George Palmer called to see her. Mrs. Wells, from Abbots Bromley, also called, but she was not allowed to see her. Mrs. Palmer died on the Friday. When she died, Mr. Palmer was in the sitting-room. The bell rang, and he went up stairs, when it was said that she was dead, he came down again almost immediately.

Mr. Deane—Before Mrs. Palmer went to Liverpool, did Mr. Palmer attempt to take liberties with you?

At this question, a long discussion arose as to its admissibility. Eventually, the jury were appealed to, and on their expressing a wish to have it answered, the witness evaded it by saying—I don't doubt but that he would have taken liberties if I had given him consent.

By Mr. Smith—I never heard Mrs. Palmer say that she thought she was suffering from English cholera. She said that she thought she had taken cold from putting on thin clothes. Mr. Palmer appeared kind to his wife, and to all about him.

Sarah Palmer (the sister-in-law of the deceased), said—I remember having accompanied the deceased to Liverpool. While there, she was tolerably well, but on the Tuesday we went into the town, and came home tired, and Mrs. Palmer sat fatigued upon the sofa. When she arrived back at Rugeley, she sat by the fire, took some tea, and complained of being very cold. My brother advised her to take some medicine, and put her feet in warm water, but she declined to do so. I did not go home with her from the railway station, but left her on our way up. She told me what I have stated when I called on the following Saturday, on which day I was with her from two o'clock in the afternoon until eight in the evening. I should say, that on the Tuesday evening we went to the concert, at St. George's Hall, in Liverpool, when she was dressed in a thin white dress. On the Saturday, she complained of a cold in her chest, and said that she felt sore. When I left her on Saturday evening, I said I would call again on the morrow, but she said that I need not hurry, my mother being ill. I saw her again on Sunday evening, and again on the next Tuesday, and that was the last time that I saw her. When we went to Liverpool, we intended to stay until Thursday, but came home on Wednesday because the deceased felt unwell. I don't say, however, that she was ill.

By Mr. Deane—I walked up only part of the way with the deceased from the railway station at Rugeley. My brother George accompanied Mrs. William Palmer from my mother's house (which is half way between the railway station and her house), my sister having stayed at my mother's house to rest herself.

By Mr. Smith—My brother used to attend as well as prescribe for us all when we were ill. His practice was almost confined to his own family. I know that the deceased had a life-interest in some property. I don't know that it was of the yearly value of £200; but it ceased with her life. I should add, that Mrs. Palmer was always in delicate health; and in the summer of the year of her death she was particularly so, and had gone to several watering places, with a view to establish her health. When at Buxton, together, in August, 1854, I perceived that her tongue was exceedingly white, and I said to her, "Oh, Annie! whatever is the matter?" She replied, she attributed it to a want of medicine, as during the time that she was with Mr. Dawson, at Abbots Bromley, she was used to take a great deal of medicine.

Mr. George Palmer said—I am a solicitor, residing at Rugeley. The deceased was the wife of my brother. I saw her on the day she returned from Liverpool. She was then in my mother's breakfast-room, and she seemed unwell. She remained there about ten minutes. I walked with her as far as the Talbot Inn. I never saw her afterwards.

By Mr. Smith—During my brother's sale I heard that some papers were found at his house.

Mr. Smith—How were they disposed of?

Witness—They were taken possession of by Mr. Hawkins, a juryman, who got possession of the papers and handed them to Police-Inspector Crisp and Mr. Gardener, the solicitor to the prosecution.

Mr. Burgen, superintendent of police—They were taken possession of under a warrant.

Witness—I would add three words. Whatever evidence may be given before the coroner, Mr. Hawkins will not retire from the jury-box and give any other verdict than that will be against my brother.

The inquiry was here, at about one o'clock, adjourned for half an hour. On its being resumed, Mr. Smith objected to Mr. Hawkins sitting as a jurymen, and desired the coroner to have him removed from the jury bench. The coroner replied, that if any objection were made to a jurymen it ought to be made before the commencement of the proceedings. He refused, therefore, to accede to Mr. Smith's application.

Matilda Bradshaw deposed that she had known the deceased ever since she was a very young woman, and attended her in her several illnesses as her nurse. Witness went to see her on the Monday after she returned home from Liverpool, when she was in bed, and said that she thought she had taken a severe cold through wearing thin clothes. Deceased, on the following morning, attempted to get up, but was unable, being seized with sickness, and that sickness continued. Deceased added, that when Dr. Knight came, he gave her something which had done her good, but she soon got ill again. After she had said this, in reply to my question, as to what was the matter with her, she said, "My dear Mrs. Bradshaw, I am glad that you are come; sit by me on the bed." Witness did so, and then the accused left the room. After he had left, she said that it was the sickness that exhausted her. That was all (continued the witness) that I heard her say; but I am deaf. She vomited several times after I was with her. She took gruel, tea, wine and water, and grapes, and bread. I proposed other things, but with reference to almost everything, she said that it would make her sick. She never complained of any pain to me excepting that arising from sickness. She was not purged much while I was with her until the last. She frequently said she hoped her bowels would not trouble her again, or she should soon be dead. She said this the morning before her death. When she felt some little unpleasant sensation in her bowels, I told Mr. Palmer that her bowels had not acted, but he said that that was of no consequence. He spoke words to the effect that that was better for her, as she took so little support. I had attended her up to that time, during three days and a half, and during the whole of the time her bowels had not been moved. They were not moved until the morning of her death. She was then purged several times. After that she appeared very weak and very low, and as soon as her bowels were moved the sickness abated. She did not live more than three or four hours after that; and the purging continued up to the time of her death. To the best of my recollection she died at about one o'clock in the day.

By Mr. Deane—During the time that I was with her, Mrs. Palmer had no solid food at all. I tried to persuade her to eat, but she replied, "I cannot take anything." She said that her throat felt sore from the vomiting. She complained at times of her mouth being dry. The medical men who attended the deceased were Mr. Bamford and Mr. Palmer, her husband. I gave her some medicine. It was a little mixture, but not much. I tasted it, because I was in the habit of doing so in attending upon sick people. She had two pills as well. The night that she took the pills she slept more comfortably than before. This was two nights before her death. She had some effervescent draughts; they were given to her by Mr. Palmer, her husband. I cannot recollect how many she took. She generally asked for them. They were given in my presence, in this way: he brought some quite clear water in a glass, and a spoon with some powder in it. The glass was an ordinary tumbler, and was half filled with water. He

ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

put the mixture into the water, and when he stirred it with a spoon it effervesced. The mixture looked like the ordinary effervescent draughts; and she frequently said that the preparation was very refreshing, and did her more good than anything else. She would take those draughts two or three times in the course of the day. She was sick in a few minutes after taking food. She had a little port wine and water. I was in the room when she died. She appeared to go quite low and composed, and for some time before she begged I would not trouble her to give her anything. She was quite sensible to the last. She was never otherwise, night or day, during the time that I was with her. She had no convulsions or spasms. The last thing she took before her death was the juice of some grapes. She said she could not suck the grapes, when I replied, "I can squeeze them into a spoon." I did so, and put it into her mouth, when she looked at me in a very pleasing manner, and said, "Oh, that was very nice." This was before the purging which preceded her death. No one else besides Mr. Palmer and myself gave her anything during the time that I was there. He did not give her anything the day that she died. The deceased's vomit appeared a good deal like that of people who are troubled with bile. It was like discoloured water of a rather yellow hue, thin, not quite so thick as gruel. It was not frothy. She said nothing about the time she died, except that she hoped I would not allow any strange people to come about her to do anything for her, but do everything myself. Mr. Palmer came up when I rang the bell after Mrs. Palmer had died. He did not come quite round the bed. I said to him, "I fear Mrs. Palmer is dying." He appeared very much hurt, and went out into the next room, and returned again directly. I think that then she was gone. After she was dead I stayed with her twenty minutes. I went into the next room to Mr. Palmer. He appeared quite unconscious of what had taken place. I asked him to take a little brandy. Upon this he looked at me, and said he thought that he had been asleep. I rubbed his hands, and he appeared a little better. He said, "Mrs. Bradshaw, you must have Mrs. Rowley to assist you." Mrs. Rowley was in the house at the time. Mrs. Rowley and I laid out the body. There was nothing peculiar in its appearance. The limbs were not stiff till she was cold.

By Mr. Smith—Mr. Palmer was with her several times shortly before she died. On the day before she took the Sacrament, in my presence. The ordinance was administered by the Rev. Mr. Atkinson, the vicar of Rugeley. I can't say positively whether she said to Mr. Atkinson, "Pray for my dear husband and my dear little boy," but she did say, "Pray for my dear little boy." Mr. Palmer appeared affectionate to his wife, and he appeared to be anxious to do everything for her comfort that lay in his power. When Mr. Palmer knew that his wife was dead, he went very pale, and seemed very much put about, and he shed tears. Mrs. Palmer was of a retiring disposition; and when I urged her to see Mrs. George Palmer and others, she refused, and said that she could not see any one, not even her own relations. She begged that I would not suffer any one to come. I told Mrs. Wells that on the night that she came. The deceased was dozing at the time. I believe that I tasted everything the deceased partook of but the effervescent draughts. While I was down stairs, the accused might have given something to the deceased, but I do not know that he did. The deceased did not like sugar or butter. She took a little sugar in her tea, but I never saw her take any butter during her illness. She did not like butter or salt.

Mr. Smith—My object is to show that as the deceased's taste was accustomed to everything so plain, she would have instantly discovered anything that was foreign to it.

Mr. Bamford, the surgeon referred to, said that when he was called in to the deceased he found her in bed, labouring under nausea, and so much debility, that she had great difficulty in giving him an answer. She did not appear to have vomited then. Her bowels were in a very constipated state, and did not appear to have been moved for 12 or 14 hours. I prepared her (he said) two pills, to be taken immediately, and in four hours after, an opening draught. This was on the Sunday. I called again the next day, and desired that Dr. Knight should be called in. He came and saw her in the afternoon of Monday, and prescribed two small pills. The bowels were in so constipated a state, that it was necessary to give a medicine that would act upon the bowels; but he did not write a prescription. Finding her with a feeling of so much nausea, Dr. Knight thought that she would retain a pill better than anything else. I prepared six or eight pills, but she took only one. They were made of $\frac{1}{2}$ grains of the compounded extract of colocynth, $\frac{1}{2}$ grain of calomel, and a little oil of caraway. After I had prepared the pills, I took them down to Mr. Palmer, and they were sent upstairs. I then suggested to Mr. Palmer, the accused, that she should have an injection. The pills were to be taken every three or four hours, till the bowels were acted upon, but she took but one; for at this time she was rapidly sinking. I saw her again on the next day (Tuesday), when she refused to take any sustenance. This was the last time that I saw her alive. The mixture was composed of 1 drachm of tartrate of potash, 8 grains of rhubarb, $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce of mint water, and 8 drops of sal volatile. The mixture I have in my hand is the same colour and precisely the same kind of mixture as that which I made for Mrs. Palmer. I will swear so, because I mix all the medicine that goes out of my shop, and have done so for the last 20 years. I used the tartrate of potash first, then the rhubarb, in mixing up the ingredients. The tartrate of potash was a long time in dissolving. I could not by any accident have taken tartar emetic for tartrate of potash. I have both in my shop, but the bottles containing them are kept upon different shelves, and I never made such a mistake as that you suggest. The draught was to be taken four hours after the pills; and I am told she threw it up immediately afterwards. The symptoms of the deceased were those of a person sinking in an advanced stage of cholera, and in my certificate as to the cause of death, I made an entry to that effect. On the second day after I saw her, she was in so exhausted a state that she could scarcely articulate. When I said that Dr. Knight should be called in, Mr. Palmer readily consented to it, and sent for him instantly. Palmer paid every attention to his wife during the time that I was there. No man could have been more attentive. He supported her in bed while giving her something that appeared to be barley-water, or something of that kind. I am of opinion that she died of bilious cholera. Constipation frequently follows powerful purging suddenly stopped. The witness declined to give any opinion as to the general character of Palmer. This witness is 82 years of age.

Edward Knight, physician, of Stafford, deposed—I knew the deceased, Anne Palmer. I was called in to see her professionally on the 25th of September, 1854. I saw her after receiving a description of her disease from her husband. She was so much exhausted that, when I asked her, she could not, to my understanding, describe her illness. Palmer said that she had had distressing vomiting, griping, and purging, and that she had caught the cholera at Liverpool, where it was then the prevailing disease. She did not vomit in my presence, but the retching was distressing. I required to see the evacuated matter. I was told it had been thrown away. As far as I could form a judgment upon the case, I thought it a severe form of English cholera—summer cholera. I retired with Mr. Palmer to a room below stairs, and recommended that she should take two minims of diluted prussic acid, for the purpose of allaying the retching. He told me it should be administered immediately. I called again, and she appeared better. When I left for Stafford, Palmer promised me that if she got worse he would send for me again. I knew the deceased from a child, and was one of her guardians. In 1854 I attended Mrs. Palmer on account of a proposal that had been made to an assurance office. I found her free from disease. From the testimony which was given me by the nurse of the deceased, I should say that her death was not occasioned by a poison which has been named. The symptoms appeared like those of English cholera.

The inquest was then adjourned till the following day. On its being resumed, the first witness called was

Dr. Monckton, of Rugeley, who stated that he made a *post mortem* examination of the body of Mrs. Palmer. There was externally no evidence of any injury, so far as the state of the preservation of the body enabled him to form an opinion. There was a sufficient quantity of fat deposited in different parts of the body to prove that the deceased had not suffered long from any lingering illness. Decomposition had proceeded to some extent, both externally and internally, and had so disorganized the brain

as to make it impossible to decide as to its condition at the time of death. The rest of the body was in a state of preservation sufficient to allow him to speak positively as to the condition of the several parts. Some of these parts or organs were enclosed, unopened, in jars, and therefore unexamined by him. With regard to all the rest, the most careful examination failed to detect any alteration in the structure sufficient to account for death. He placed in one jar the stomach and one kidney, and in another one, parts of the large intestine and of the small vessels of the ovaries. The third jar contained the liver, the spleen of the heart, and the right lung. The jars were placed in the hands of Mr. Inspector Crisp, to be forwarded to Professor Taylor.

Mr. Smith—Was there anything in the appearance of Mrs. Palmer's body inconsistent with the supposition that she died from exhaustion?—Witness—Nothing.

Mr. Smith—Do you believe she died of English cholera?—Witness—No.

Mr. Smith—Might she have died from extreme vomiting?—Witness—Yes. The *post mortem* appearances are consistent with that. She might have died from extreme vomiting producing exhaustion.

Professor Taylor, of Guy's Hospital, was then called. He said he received the contents of the stomach of Mrs. Palmer from the police officer Crisp. When he opened the stomach a strong smell of gas escaped, but he found no ulcerations or perforations. There was a brown pasty substance in the stomach, which, on a chemical analysis, was found to yield antimony. A minute portion of arsenic was detected. The coats of the stomach, and the large and small intestines, yielded antimony. The liver also yielded antimony. No other poison than antimony was found in the body. From the appearances, he had no doubt that she took a preparation of antimony within a few hours of her death, and that the poison was improperly administered to her, either through ignorance or design. In his opinion, the antimony found in the body of the deceased was not the result of one large dose, but of several doses, taken at intervals some days before death, and to within a few hours of her death.

By Mr. Smith—He did not find strychnine, prussic acid, or any trace of opium. The contents of the stomach having been drained away, it was now impossible to say whether any strychnine was given before death.

Dr. Rees, of Guy's Hospital, was called. He said he had assisted Dr. Taylor in his analysis, and confirmed his testimony.

Dr. Knight having been recalled, said he believed he was mistaken yesterday in the opinion he had formed. The circumstances stated to him when he visited Mrs. Palmer were doubtless erroneously reported. Having heard the evidence of Dr. Taylor, he said he had no doubt that Mrs. Palmer died from the effects of poison administered in the way described.

The following are the important portions of Drs. Taylor and Rees's report:—

"In this investigation fifteen different analyses were made, occupying us from the 26th to the 31st of December. No other poison but antimony was detected in any part of the body. The conclusions at which we arrived from this analysis and examination are as follow:—

"1. That all parts of the body of deceased examined by us contained antimony. In the stomach and intestines the antimony was partly in a soluble form, while in the liver, heart, spleen, kidneys, and lungs it had been deposited as a result of absorption during life.

"2. The larger quantity of antimony was found in the rectum, next in the stomach and its contents, then in the bile taken from the gall-bladder, and the smallest quantity was found in the lungs.

"3. The presence of antimony in the contents of the rectum proves that the discharges from the bowels of the deceased contained antimony up to the time of her death; that she was passing antimony by purging when she died; and the presence of this mineral is sufficient to account for the vomiting or diarrhoea, or both, from which deceased is stated to have suffered.

"4. From the discovery of antimony in the contents of the stomach, we infer that a preparation of antimony must have been taken by deceased within a few hours of her death.

"5. From the discovery of antimony in the stomach and intestines, especially in the rectum, we infer that the antimonial compound, if not taken by deceased as the result of a series of accidents, was improperly administered to her either through ignorance or by design.

"6. That, in our opinion, the antimony found by us in the body of deceased has not been the result of one large dose, but of several doses taken at intervals some days before death.

"7. That the antimonial preparation taken by deceased was what is commonly called tartar emetic, and this may or may not have acted as a poison according to circumstances. It may or may not have been the cause of death. In the event of the existence of any natural cause for the illness of deceased, it may have accelerated her death, by producing great depression and exhaustion of the powers of life.

"8. In the examination of the stomach, bowels, and other organs of deceased, we could not detect any changes as the result of natural disease. There was nothing to account for death. On the other hand, there was nothing in these appearances inconsistent with the death of the deceased from frequent dosings of tartar emetic."

The Coroner then read through those parts of the evidence which he thought important, briefly remarking upon portions of it. At the conclusion of his remarks, the jury retired to consider their verdict. And on their return, after an absence of 20 minutes, the Foreman, amid the breathless silence of a crowded and excited court, said—We find that Anne Palmer died from the effects of tartarised antimony, and that that was designately administered by her husband, William Palmer.

The announcement of the verdict was followed by decided manifestations of satisfaction from a large number of persons in the hall.

The Coroner, after a pause—What do you mean by its being "designately" administered?

The Foreman—We mean that it was designedly administered for the purpose of destroying life.

The Coroner—That, gentlemen, is a verdict of wilful murder.

The Foreman—That is our verdict.

INQUEST ON MR. WALTER PALMER.

On Monday the Coroner held an inquiry, at the Town Hall, Rugeley, on the body of Mr. Walter Palmer, whose death is supposed to have been caused by poison, forming another in the link of mysterious cases with which the public have of late become so intimately acquainted.

Prior to the commencement of the proceedings, the Coroner produced the depositions in the case of Mrs. Anne Palmer, held last week, together with the finding of the jury, and issued his warrant against Palmer, committing him for trial at the ensuing assizes.

From the evidence taken to-day, and the cross-examinations that ensued upon it, it appeared that Walter was, like his brother William, the accused, a sporting man, and in the habit of attending races in different parts of the country. He was in the habit of drinking to excess; indeed he was rarely sober, and had had a severe attack of delirium previous to his death.

Dr. Ray, a surgeon of Stafford, said that Walter Palmer resided at Castleton, in Staffordshire, and that he (witness) was in the habit of attending him. On one occasion he complained to witness that he had given him pills which twisted him, and witness was forcibly struck with the remark, because he had neither given nor prescribed pills for him, and it subsequently transpired that they had been administered to him by his brother William. The witness also said that Walter Palmer had told him when he first attended him that he had drunk from one and a half to two bottles of gin during the night, but that he had afterwards reduced himself to half a pint. This he was glad to hear, as he thought it a good descent. On one occasion I told him there was little use for me to see him, and still less for me to send him medicine, if he continued his habits of intemperance, and I added, that if he did not at once stop his then course of life, he would shut up as rapidly and as securely as the penknife which I then shut before his eyes. To this he replied that I was "a — Methodist" and that I had better get out of the house."

In cross-examination, witness admitted that he had certified to an assurance company that Walter Palmer was a man in perfect health and of temperate habits. He did so upon the representations of William Palmer, and

corrected that statement when he had ascertained what were the true facts of the case.

Mr. Mason, a druggist at Castleton, was examined in reference to an alleged sale of prussic acid to William Palmer on the day before his brother's death. He said it was his practice never to sell prussic acid to any but medical practitioners, and he thought that if William Palmer had purchased any he should find an entry in his books.

A Mrs. Walkenden and her husband, who had been in the habit of attending on Walter Palmer for some months previous to his death, gave evidence of his general intemperate habits. Walkenden at first refused to be sworn until his expenses had been paid him, but on the coroner intimating that refractory witnesses might be committed, he took the oath, and gave the following evidence:—I am a corn agent, living at Stafford. Walter Palmer was boarding with me in my house, in Erle Street, before he went to Castle Terrace, in April, 1855. I went with him to Castle Terrace. He was unwell before he left my house, and he was ill for about two or three months before he died. He had what is called delirium in my house before he went away. I consider he was gradually getting worse, as he was continually drinking. He was on what I might call the sober tack, that is, being to a little bit of a teetotaller like, but he wasn't. He had got down to from half to three parts of a bottle of gin a day from double the quantity. When he came back from Liverpool, he seemed right enough, as far as I could judge. He went to bed sober that night, because he had nothing before he went to his room. He took nothing to eat. I took him his usual companions—the gin bottle and the water jug. He drank very freely the next day, taking, in my presence, several glasses before 10 o'clock. I took him up a cup of coffee, which he drank. This was between 8 and 9 o'clock. He never had it later than 9 o'clock. The coffee always came back, and violently, especially after he had been drinking more than usual. I went with him to Wolverhampton races. He was very much in liquor in the morning. He had two or three glasses of gin and water on the race-course. He went to his own house in Castle Terrace when he returned home. He was very tipsy at the time, but he took three or four more glasses of gin and water. All he ate was about an ounce of mutton-chop, which I had ordered for him at an inn at Wolverhampton. I think he called me up twice the night before he died. The last time he called me, I did not go at once. I heard him out of bed, and I then went into his room. He was toddling into bed in a great hurry, as if he did not wish me to see that he had got up. His face was as black as ink for half a minute, and his eyes flashed. The blackness in his face lasted a few seconds. I have seen him in that way before, after he had drank a glass of gin off at one "gulph." He seemed, on such occasions, to have a difficulty in getting his breath. I asked what he had been doing, as I generally did when I saw him in that excited state. He smiled as soon as he could, and I looked at the bottle and said, "Oh, that is what you have been at, is it?" "Oh, no," said he, "it runs out" (alluding to some that he had spilt in the night on the chest of drawers). The bottle was quite empty. He got up that morning about half-past nine o'clock, and came down stairs. He ate nothing, but commenced drinking gin and water as soon as he came down stairs. Just before his attack of a fit he said, "Help me to the sofa—I feel very ill." Mr. William, who had been there about half an hour, caught hold of one of his hands. I remained in the room the whole time while William Palmer was with him, except while I went into the kitchen to fetch a basin. I was not a minute getting the basin. I left him the day before a few minutes while I fetched a bottle of brandy from Lloyd's Junction Hotel. I fetched something else from Mr. Knight's the day I bought the bottle of brandy. Mr. William Palmer sent for it when the deceased was in the fit. His face was very much blackened. His head was hanging over the sofa, and I ran into the kitchen, and said to Mr. William Palmer, "Run to your brother; he is very bad indeed." When William Palmer came in from the kitchen, he said, "Why, good God, he is in a fit!" Mr. William Palmer then told me to put on the kettle to get hot water to put his feet in. I put a wet cloth on his head, and left Mrs. Phillips in the house with William Palmer while I ran for Dr. Ray. Mr. Palmer was dead when I came back.

On Tuesday, Professor Taylor, of Guy's Hospital, was examined touching the cause of Walter Palmer's death. The conclusions, he said, which he drew from the analyses and examinations of the viscera were these: "First, with the exception of the liver, the viscera of the deceased presented no appearance of disease; secondly, the enlargement of the liver was not such as to account for such a sudden death; thirdly, that no mineral or vegetable poison could be detected in any part of the body; fourthly, that there was nothing in the appearance of the viscera to account for death; fifthly, in the absence of distinct evidence of the nature and duration of the illness of deceased, we are not able to give an opinion as to the cause of death, whether from disease or poison. Dr. Rees concurs in those conclusions, which were drawn up and signed on the 4th of January last. I have since heard the evidence given by witnesses as to the death of the deceased, and my opinion is, assuming nothing to have been taken by him an hour before he died, that the cause of his death was apoplexy, arising from excessive drinking. The symptoms of apoplexy are much the same as those of narcotic poison. A man like Walter Palmer, labouring under disease, would be more susceptible of poison. I have known persons to die from poison, and yet a disease might appear to account for death. After a lapse of four or five months all trace of narcotic poison would have left the body, or of prussic acid either. Prussic acid would disappear in a fortnight after death. A fatal dose would disappear in that time. Half a teaspoonful of prussic acid would be a fatal dose." In this opinion Messrs. Hughes and Waddell, surgeons, at Stafford, and Dr. Monckton of Rugeley, concurred.

At the time we went to press, the proceedings had not terminated.

The Postmaster at Rugeley has been suspended by order of the Government, and proceedings have been commenced against him for opening a letter addressed by Doctor Taylor to the Solicitor for the prosecution against Palmer, and communicating the contents to the latter. His defence is that the letter was posted open.

SALE OF PALMER'S RACING STUD.

The brood mares, horses in training, and yearlings belonging to the notorious William Palmer, were put up by auction, by the Messrs. Tattersall, on Monday, at "The Corner," and attracted so large an attendance of company that the sale-yard was completely crowded. Many of the leading patrons of the turf, and most of the trainers from the north and south of England, were present. A large majority of the miscellaneous assembly, however, consisted of persons whose only motive was evidently to satisfy a feeling of curiosity which the circumstances connected with the sale had excited.

In certain instances competition was sustained with much spirit, and high prices were realized. In the aggregate the sale amounted to £3,906.

Major Grove, her Majesty's Commissioner from the Royal Puddocks, bought Trickstress for 230 guineas; but strange to say, although he appeared to bid anxiously for Nettle—a decidedly superior animal—he at last let her go, Mr. F. L. Popham purchasing her for 430 guineas. Nettle, it will be remembered, was first favourite for the Oaks last year, but she fell over the chains soon after starting, and her jockey had his thigh fractured. The Chicken was "knocked down" for 800 guineas. The first bid was 300, and Mr. H. Hill spiritedly advanced the price until he reached 780 guineas, when he stopped. The horse was ultimately sold to Mr. Harlock, who, it was understood, bought him for "a Noble Lord." For the three-year-old filly by Melbourne, out of Seaweed, Mr. Sargent gave 590 guineas. Staffordshire Nan was purchased for 300 guineas.

THE PEACE PARTY AND THE COMING SESSION.—Mr. Gladstone, according to rumour, is to lead the Peace Party in the House of Commons next session, and Lord Blandford and Granby, Sir J. Graham, Messrs. Cobden, Bright, M. Gibson and Laing, have enrolled themselves under his banner. It is alleged that they are to be backed by some members connected with the money-market, but Mr. Disraeli stands aloof.

JOSEPH SCALIGER.—Scaliger's position among scholars is simply royal . . . We owe it to the Scaligeriana that we can form a notion of his private character, one feature of which was a haughtiness on a par with his attainments. He had a union of two kinds of pride, either of which is enough for a poor mortal. He was proud because he thought himself the head of the great house of Scaliger, of Verona. He was proud because he felt himself intellectually among the leading minds of Europe. He had the haughtiness of a don; a kind of mixture of the pride of Baron Bradwardine with the pride of Dr. Parr.—"Quarterly Review" on Table Talk.



BRILLIANT CAVALRY SKIRMISH BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND COSSACKS, AT KOUGH.L.- (FROM A DRAWING BY GUSTAVE DORE.)





BRILLIANT CAVALRY SKIRMISH BETWEEN THE FRENCH

AND COSSACKS, AT KOUGH.L.--(FROM A DRAWING BY GUSTAVE DORE.)

CAVALRY SKIRMISH AT KOUGHILL.

OUR readers will no doubt remember that the final engagement of any importance that occurred in the past Crimean campaign was a spirited Cavalry action between detachments of the French and Russian troops in the neighbourhood of Eupatoria. This brilliant affair has been depicted by Gustave Doré, in the accompanying engraving.

It appears, that early one morning General d'Allonville departed from Sebastopol for Eupatoria, with three regiments of his cavalry division, and that Marshal Pelissier was inspired with a hope that the skilful activity of this General, zealously seconded by the *Mushir Ahmet Pacha*, would succeed in driving back to a distance the troops kept by the Russians round Eupatoria, and ultimately threatening the enemy's grand line of communication between Simferopol and Perekop.

The first column, directed to the south-east, went to take up a position at the extremity of the isthmus, towards Saki. It had only a few squadrons before it, and these it easily kept in check, assisted as it was by two gun-boats. The second, commanded by the *Mushir* in person, passing through Orar Atchin and Teiech, advanced on Djolchak, destroying on its march all the enemy's stores. The third, at the head of which was General d'Allonville, consisted of 12 squadrons of his division, of Armand's battery (horse artillery), with 200 irregular horse, and 6 Egyptian battalions. This column crossed one of the arms of Lake Sasik, and marched through Chibon on Djolchak, the joint rendezvous, where the two other columns arrived at about ten o'clock in the forenoon. The two latter columns had driven before them some Russian squadrons, which had fallen back successively on their reserves. General d'Allonville was having the horses baited, when he observed a movement on the part of the enemy, who, with 18 squadrons, several sotnias of Cossacks, and some artillery, were endeavouring to turn the General's right by advancing between him and the lake.

General d'Allonville, whom the *Mushir* caused to be supported in the rear by two regiments of Turkish cavalry and the six Egyptian battalions, immediately proceeded towards the end of the lake, in order to surround the enemy. The promptitude of this movement enabled the 4th Hussars to charge the enemy with drawn sabres, while the 6th and 7th Dragoons, in the second and third lines, dashed at the Russian Uhlan, and drove them into headlong flight, harassing them for more than two leagues. The French cavalry, indeed, charged in the most brilliant manner, and finally took six guns and 200 prisoners. The French and Turks followed the foe nearly fifteen miles inland, and then returned with their trophies to Eupatoria.

THE PROPOSITIONS SUBMITTED TO RUSSIA BY ESTERHAZY

The "Independence Belge" publishes the following as the text of the Propositions submitted to Russia by Count Esterhazy:—

I.—THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

"Complete abolition of the Russian protectorate. The Danubian Principalities shall receive an organisation conformed to their wishes, their necessities, and their interests; and this new organisation, respecting which the population itself shall be consulted, shall be recognised by the contracting Powers and sanctioned by the Sultan as emanating from his sovereign initiative. No State shall have power under any pretext whatsoever, under any form of Protectorate, to intercede in questions of the internal administration of the Principalities. The latter will adopt a definite permanent system called for by their geographical position, and no obstacle shall be interposed to prevent them from fortifying their territory for their own security, as they see fit against all foreign aggression."

"In exchange for the fortified positions and territory occupied by the Allied armies, Russia consents to a rectification of her frontier with European Turkey. The frontier will leave the environs of Chotym [in Bessarabia], follow the line of the heights stretching in a south-east direction, and terminate at Lake Salyzk. The time of this rectification shall be definitely regulated by general treaty, and the conceded territory shall return to the Principalities and the suzerainty of the Porte."

II.—THE DANUBE.

"The freedom of the Danube and of the mouths of the river shall be efficaciously assured by the institutions of European international law, in which the contracting Powers shall be equally represented; excepting the particular positions of owners of the soil on the banks, which will be regulated upon the principles established respecting river navigation by the treaty of the Congress of Vienna. Each of the contracting Powers shall have the right to station one or two light vessels at the mouths of the river, in order to insure the observance of the regulations relative to the freedom of the Danube."

III.—NEUTRALISATION OF THE BLACK SEA.

"This sea shall be opened to merchant vessels; closed to ships of war. Consequently naval arsenals will neither be created nor preserved. The protection of the commercial and maritime interests of all nations shall be assured in the respective ports in the Black Sea, by the establishment of institutions conformed to international law and ancient usages in this matter. The two coast-bordered Powers mutually engage to keep up only the number of light vessels, of a stipulated strength, necessary for the coasting service. This convention, concluded separately between the two Powers, shall form a part of the general treaty as an annex after having been approved of by the contracting parties. This separate convention shall neither be annulled nor modified without the assent of the subscribers to the general treaty. The closing of the straits shall admit an exception in favour of the stationary vessels mentioned in the preceding article."

IV.—CHRISTIAN SUBJECTS OF THE PORTE.

"The immunities of the Rayah subjects of the Porte will be established without injury to the independence or dignity of the Sultan's crown. As deliberations are taking place between Austria, France, Great Britain, and the Sublime Porte, in order to assure to the Christian subjects of the Sultan their religion and political rights, Russia shall be invited, on the conclusion of peace, to associate herself with them."

"V.—The belligerent Powers reserve the right which belongs to them to produce, in the interest of Europe, some special conditions besides the four guarantees."

THE RUSSIAN REPLY TO THE PEACE PROPOSITIONS.

WE can state with confidence that the Russian reply to the Austrian *ultimo* has been received at Vienna. Russia rejects the second clause of the first proposal—viz., the "rectification of her frontier with Turkey." She also rejects the fifth proposal, by which a right of producing special conditions is reserved to the belligerent Powers, and in virtue of which they would demand the engagement not to rebuild Bomarsund. Russia accepts the rest of the *ultimo*, including the neutralisation of the Black Sea, with some modifications. In exchange for the strong places and territories occupied by the Allies, Russia proposes to restore to the Porte Kars and the territories she has won from Turkey in Asia in the last campaign. We have reason to believe that Austria keeps her faith with us, and will not receive this counter-proposition. Austria, however, gives the Cabinet of St. Petersburg the benefit of the time she had already allowed, and therefore Russia has till the 18th inst. to notify to Count Esterhazy her acceptance or rejection, without conditions, of the Austrian *ultimo*. If Russia refuse, or if at that date she has not accepted the Austrian *ultimo* "pure et simple," Count Esterhazy has instructions to withdraw from St. Petersburg.—*Post*.

The semi-official "Dresden Journal" publishes a despatch from Vienna, in which it is said that Austria declares inadmissible any alteration of the Esterhazy bases of peace. It adds that as Russia is not expected to make any further concessions, diplomatic relations between Austria and Russia will in all probability be suspended. The Russian answer contains the Emperor's distinct refusal to surrender any portion of the territory of the empire which he has inherited the duty of defending.

* The Austrian Government, we are assured, will not maintain Count Esterhazy at St. Petersburg beyond the term fixed for the acceptance or rejection of the bases of peace, namely, Friday, the 18th instant.

The Allies have declared (says a despatch from Vienna, dated Jan. 14) that the Russian propositions are inadmissible.

Prince Gortschakoff is expected to leave Vienna on the 18th, but awaits orders from St. Petersburg.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 1856.

PEACE PROPOSALS AND COUNTER-PROPOSALS.

THE great event of the week has been the news from St. Petersburg about the Czar's reception of the Allied Proposals. Up to the time at which we write it is impossible to anticipate the final result: let us endeavour to understand the position, and see what we have to hope from it.

Russia, then, accepts—and does not accept—the proposals of the Allies. She accedes to some points—she objects to some—she modulates others; but in all three cases she expresses herself with a vagueness, which is, of course, intended to prolong diplomacy, but which does not seem decisive enough to conclude war.

She rejects, it appears, the rectification of her frontier with Turkey. The Allies' proposal "as for a cession of a portion of Bessarabia, to be incorporated with the new Danubian state." This Russia refuses. It is a point which can stand over for future discussion. It is not yet clear how far this detail is in the interest of Austria only; but it is quite clear that the freedom of the Danube is imperative. In settling this last, it is important that some permanent authority, on the part of the Allies, shall exist for its preservation;—and this brings us to the question of the Black Sea. If we are to have any authority with regard to the Danube, we must have (as part of it) a right to maintain some vessels of war in the neighbourhood.

With regard, however, to this right, the suggestions from St. Petersburg are not satisfactory. They amount to the following:—"No military flag whatever shall float in the Black Sea, with the exception of those of the forces which Russia and the Porte, by a common consent, may deem it necessary to maintain there."

As far as we can see, this amounts to leaving the Porte at Russia's mercy. We ought to have a provision, on the part of the Allies, making them independent of both Russia and the Porte in the matter. The Porte may be, at a future time, bullied or cajoled, and the Czar grow so powerful as to threaten Constantinople before Europe can resist him. There ought to be stipulations securing our entry into that Sea as freely as into the Mediterranean—of course, with limitations as to the number of ships; or if this be thought too exacting, let the Sea be closed to war navies altogether. In the last case, we must trust to the establishment of our commerce, consuls, &c., there. We are told that Russia accepts the neutralisation with "some modifications"; but unless these are more satisfactory than what we have given above, we see no chance of the country's being satisfied with them.

Russia rejects the fifth proposal—that relating to future special conditions. She will not, that is to say, admit such engagements as would bind her not to rebuild Bomarsund. This is quite decided. If we admit it, all her ruined fortresses rise again, and her readiness to make war is only a question of time. In fact, this item touches the vital question—whether she has been as thoroughly beaten as we think? However, we made war, not from a general desire to beat her for the sake of beating her, but to disable her from ruining Turkey; and if we can secure this, we have strictly no more to exact. The only question that remains is, whether we do not throw over Sweden in permitting the rebuilding on the Aland Islands?

Russia proposes to exchange territories taken—to bargain what she has gained in Asia against what she has lost in the Crimea. Here, of course, she gains. We have made vital acquisitions at her expense; she has made—some, indeed, but not counterbalancing ones, at ours.

Such are the propositions which reached London through the "Morning Post" on Monday last, and which were copied from that well-informed print into the "Times" of Tuesday. The "Times" was obviously puzzled for the moment, and threw out a "feeler." Could we get Austria if we wanted to continue the war? Would England consent to proceed if we could not get her? That was what the "Times" wanted to know, but was not quite prepared to say on its own authority.

We have been duly informed that Austria was dissatisfied—that she did not like terms of peace which pressed harder on her than on France and England—and that she had given orders to withdraw her embassy, though without being ready to go to war this year. She is willing, in fact, to show her temper, without being willing to show her teeth; and she would like to see what we can do in another summer, in which case she will join us if it is worth her while, or keep aloof if it is better worth her while. That is what we owe to our diplomacy in that quarter.

The state of things, under these circumstances, is highly perplexed—exactly as the Russian diplomats wish it to be. They have clearly no wish to make honest and satisfactory concessions; but, knowing that our Parliament is about to meet, fling the matter, with its "modifications" and its other dubieties and possibilities, before us, in the hope that our party disturbances and conflicting interests may wage a war at home injurious to our possibilities of action abroad. Under these circumstances, and pending the explanation of what Russia means by the "modifications" with which she accepts the neutralisation of the Black Sea, we reluctantly come to the conclusion that we had best fix our attention on the questions,—who is to have the Baltic fleet, and what are we going to do this summer? Some new aspects of the matter may indeed come up—and we write when the Russian proposals, only in their roughest forms, are before us—but enough exists to show us that our wisest policy is to be prepared for a continuance of those hostilities, to the success of which alone we owe all that is encouraging in Russia's answer.

THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

THE President's Message opens one or two points of interest as regards the relations of America and Britain. For the remaining topics—important as they are—their attraction is rather for Yankees than Englishmen.

The President alludes to the growing complication of the question of the positions of the two countries in Central America. It was agreed in 1850, by what is known as the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, that neither Government should "occupy, or fortify, or colonise, or assume or exercise, any dominion over Nicaragua, Costa Rica, the Mosquito Coast, or any part of Central America." The President

complains that, in breach of this, the English Government has continued to extend its authority over these districts. He represents the difference as arising from a variety of opinion as to the interpretation of the convention. When Parliament meets the papers will, no doubt, be laid before us; meanwhile, there is nothing threatening in Mr. PIERCE's reference to these delicate topics.

With regard to the recruiting question between the two countries (on which we gave our opinion some time ago), the President expresses himself soberly. He states—what we fear is beyond dispute—that our Government committed a deliberate breach of the law of the United States. But he states this in language which gives no ground for complaint; and as to it, and the other matters in dispute, we see no difficulties beyond the facile settlement of the common sense of the two countries.

PEERAGES FOR LIFE.

MR. BARON PARKE has been created Baron Wensleydale of Wensleydale only for the term of his natural life; in other words, the title is not hereditary. This limitation has been declared by many to be invidious and contrary to all precedent. It would be less the former were it absolutely the latter,—the only persons, for some centuries past, who have received peerages with the same conditions, having been kings' mistresses and their illegitimate offspring.

We would, therefore, rather the exceptional dignity had been entirely without precedent, than professed by one so much the reverse of flattering to the newly-created peer. Nevertheless, we do not look upon the innovation as an intentional insult to the Learned Baron, but as a new principle in our constitution, to be hailed with satisfaction. An honour is not to be spurned because its last bearer was a disreputable person, any more than a handsome dwelling must ever remain untenanted because it was last a gambling-house. The objection to our House of Lords is, that it entrusts legislative power to men for merits not their own. To raise men of merit to the Peerage on the old conditions, was not one whit to do away with that objection. The son of a Brougham, a Lyndhurst, a Hardinge, or a Campbell, might be as inefficient a legislator as the hundredth descendant of a Stanley, a Howard, or a Plantagenet. It was only to entail on our posterity the evils of which we (at all events, some of us,) ourselves complain. The new element introduced (for we hope Baron Parke's elevation may be taken as a precedent), while it does away with this prospective inconvenience, qualifies an able man for serving his country in the most exalted and honourable sphere. It is a vast and practical improvement on the old empty rewards of knighthood and baronetcy, and may be regarded as an encouragement to men of talent and integrity in every sphere of enlightenment.

JOTTINGS.

THERE is the bare possibility of a new war ere we "are off with the old one," a war with our American cousins. President Pierce has delivered his message, and demands "reparation" for the breach of the neutrality laws committed by the British Ministry in seeking to enlist on the soil of the United States for the Foreign Legion. The enlistment was suspended so soon as it was known that the tender feelings of the American Executive were outraged. The indignation of President Pierce is understood to be an electioneering "odge," with a view to the next Presidential election; and Lord Palmerston, who has an old grudge at the Yankees, and cannot forget or forgive the "Ashburton capitulation," is not the man to apologise. What then? Mr. Crampton, our Minister at Washington, may be ordered out of the States, but that is not equivalent to a war. President Pierce cannot force the States into a war with England, as in the case of the Emperor Nicholas. The right of declaring war is vested by the Constitution of the States in Congress, not in the Executive—and the gentlemen of the American Senate and House of Representatives will pause a little ere they sacrifice the lucrative export trade of their constituents to the ambition of a baffled president.

Mr. Russell, the "Times" correspondent, comes home; he is asked out to dinner, and the Fielding Club offers him a collation. The literary gentleman who "did" the Crimean and Baltic correspondence for the "Monitor," receives the cross of the Legion of Honour. The difference of treatment marks the contrast between the two countries and their governments. The English "gentleman of the press" tells important and unpalatable truths. London society *detests* him, while the State looks askance at him. His French colleague "made things pleasant," and his home treatment is the converse of Mr. Russell's. Do you want to know why the "Saturday Review" is always carping at the leading journal and its "own correspondent"? The "Saturday Review" is an organ of the Peelites, while Mr. Russell overthrew by causing, through his disclosures, the appointment of the Sebastopol Committee. The "Saturday Review," moreover, is conducted by Mr. Cooke, the whom editor of the "Morning Chronicle," from its resuscitation by the Peelites in 1847, up to its recent transit into the hands of Mr. Serjeant Glover. There are wheels within wheels!

Lord Carlisle, the "good Earl of Carlisle," as admiring journalists call him, has recently done something graceful and wise. The librarianship of Queen's College, Galway, was vacant, and the Viceroy waived his right to appoint some hanger-on sycophant or well-recommended nominee. The post was thrown open to competition. For two days, eight candidates were examined in "general literature, bibliography, cataloguing, and English literature." The palm was borne away by a Mr. Richardson, a Galway man; and this new instalment of "Justice to Ireland" is universally applauded by the Irish. "The right man in the right place," is a desideratum in public libraries as well as in public offices and public life. The present librarian of the British Museum (an Italian) was appointed because he breakfasted so steadily with Lord Brougham, that to be rid of him, his Lordship pitchforked him into the Museum!

Macaulay's fifth volume is in the press. The Right Honourable Gentleman himself intends, they say, to retire from the representation of Edinburgh, to the great delight of his colleague, Mr. Cowan, who *makes* the paper on which Macaulay *writes*, and who complains that he is crushed to the ground by the burden of local business which his literary colleague declines to share with him. Mr. Cowan will not be much better off if what report says be true—that Macaulay is to be succeeded by Lord John Russell, to whom the City has given their "notice to quit."

Marchionesses are rather before the public just now. The Marquis of Townshend dies, and ere his corpse is a week old, his Lady Marchioness (who had been separated from her husband for many years) takes unto herself another husband, she herself having arrived at the ripe age of 70. Then, there is the Marchioness of Conyngham, also separated from her husband, who figures in the newspapers as sued by a tradesman for a trifling debt, which she promises to pay, like Mr. Macawber, by instalments. The Marquis of Ailesbury dies, and people begin to speculate about the Marchioness, who, too, had been separated from her husband, and to whom we owe the round hats, so graceful on the head of female youth and beauty. Strangest of all, gossip rumour makes bold to assign the hand of the Dowager Marchioness of Londonderry, once the splendid and magnificent, to the designer of the famous tournament—Lord Eglington.

Of course the same gossip, Madame Rumour, wags her tongue about the visit being paid to Windsor, by the second son of the King of the Belgians, the youthful Count of Flanders. He is come, we are told, to make the acquaintance of the Princess Alice, who is to be his bride, unless, as in the case of the Prince of Prussia and our Princess Royal, the "Times" should forbid the banns. In this case, the leading journal could raise the plausible objection that the intended bridegroom is a Roman Catholic. For once the "Times" and the "Morning Advertiser" would agree.

THE HYDE PARK RIOTS.—Charles Madgett, William Gearing, and William Bealey, the three constables who were reported by the Hyde Park Police Commission to have misconducted themselves on the 1st of July, surrendered on Thursday last week to take their trial at the Central Criminal Court. Madgett was found guilty, and sentenced to nine months' imprisonment; but the others were acquitted.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THEODORE PAY, the American Minister, resident in the Helvetic Republic, is writing a "History of Switzerland."

BISHOP OF OXFORD has been appointed, by the Council of the Royal Society, lecturer for the present year.

MR. FERD. D'ANGERS, the celebrated sculptor, died at Paris on the 6th inst.

MR. FREDERICK MAXWELL, of the English bar, who defended the Coalition Cabinet, and contended "Whom shall we hang?" has been appointed Recorder of the City of London with a salary of £2,000 a year.

MR. CANTRELL, the Hamburg bookseller, arrested at the instance of the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, has been released without bail by order of the Senate.

MR. ROGERS has left five volumes of autobiography ready for the press in the hands of his executor, Mr. Moxon, the publisher.

GENERAL CAVIGNAC AND BERANGER were the principal pall-bearers at the funeral, in Père-la-Chaise, of M. David the sculptor.

THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH has decided upon troops from the Crimea to fill seats for a certain period at the Grand Opera.

LADY ELLENBOROUGH, whose death has been currently reported, under many coloured circumstances, is stated to be in good health at Damascus.

PROFESSOR KARL FRIEDRICH HERMANN, of Göttingen, one of the most celebrated pathologists of Germany, died recently, in his 52nd year.

DR. SANDWITH, one of the defenders of Kars, has reached London, having been sent free by General Montrayef, in consideration of the attention he bestowed on the Russians wounded on the 29th of September.

MR. COLLY CAMPBELL and 10,000 English troops, in conjunction with 50,000 of the French, will, it is rumoured, undertake a land campaign in the North.

THE BERLIN POLICE have forbidden newspapers to admit advertisements from wives and husbands, on the ground that they are contrary to propriety.

DR. BRUNO BAUER, formerly of the University of Berlin, has left Prussia and taken up his abode in London.

ADMIRAL LUSHINGTON, who commanded the "Naval Brigade"—a dashing fellow, only fifty-four years old—is, it is said, to command the Baltic Fleet this year.

MR. PANMURE has been suffering for some days past from an attack of rheumatism, the attack being so very severe as to have affected his right hand.

THE QUEEN is to do the Amateur Musical Society the unwonted honour of attending their entertainment on the 29th inst.

MR. LAYARD is stated to be the author of "Results and Prospects of the War" in the new number of the "Quarterly."

THE LORD ADVOCATE will, it is said, re-introduce his ill-starred Scottish Education Bill, during the coming session of Parliament.

MR. HENRY BEEKELLY, M.P., has commenced an action for libel against the proprietors of the "Alliance Weekly News," a teetotal paper.

A PUBLIC MEETING, convened by the Council of the Administrative Reform Association, was held at Rochester, last week, when Mr. Jacob Bell indulged the members with one of his oratorical displays.

THE EX-KING OF THE FRENCH has now completely recovered from the grave malady which lately caused serious fears to her family.

MR. CANNING was still in Upper Egypt, at the latest date, but the Feroze, which is to convey him to Bombay, was expected to arrive at Suez this month.

THE MARRIAGE OF PRINCE GABRELLI with the Princess Charlotte Bonaparte, is announced as approaching.

A MEMORIAL has been presented to the trustees of the British Museum, praying that the institution may be opened to the public for the six working days of the week, instead of three.

EARL GRANVILLE, as President of the Council, will give a Parliamentary dinner to a party of peers on the 30th inst., at his residence in Bruton Street.

THE REV. EDWARD ATKINSON, B.D., has been elected to the vacant mastership of Clare Hall, Cambridge.

MR. PRINCE, Q.C., will be appointed the Assistant-Judge of the Middlesex Sessions, in the room of Mr. Sergeant Adams, at a salary of £1,200.

THE KING OF SWEDEN has conferred on M. Lobstein the Grand Cordon of the Order of St. Olaf of Norway, as a mark of his satisfaction at the part taken by the French Minister in the treaty of alliance.

THE ESPADON, a French whaler, has been chased for two days in the neighbourhood of the Kuriles Islands, by a Russian corvette, which she escaped from in a snow storm.

THE GENERAL POST OFFICE has notified that the departure of the screw steamer Victoria, with letter-bags for Melbourne, is deferred until the 1st of February.

MR. DROUYN DE LUHYS is said to have tendered his resignation as President of the French Senate.

THE LARGE PIANOFORTE MANUFACTORY OF HOPKINSON AND CO., in New Bond, was last Saturday night destroyed by fire.

MR. CRAUFORD, M.P. for the Ayr Burghs, has been delivering a series of lectures at Irvine, on the subject of "Self-Education."

MR. JEGIER, a lieutenant of artillery of the Swiss Guards at Rome, has been arrested by order of the Government, and taken to the prison of St. Michele.

THE HOSPITAL STEAM WAR TRANSPORT SEVERN, now at Southampton, will be ready to receive troops on the 21st, and will probably leave for the seat of war on the 22nd inst.

A NEW RELIGIOUS JOURNAL, entitled "L'Observateur Catholique," is about to appear at Paris, and will combat the doctrines of ultramontanism.

THE LONDON AND SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY have just issued a notice offering 5 per cent. per annum interest for loans on debentures.

PRINCE LUCIEN BONAPARTE has been unanimously admitted a member of the Institute of Sweden.

THE EARL OF EGLINTOUN, while lately in Edinburgh, coming out of the National Bank, was suddenly pelted by two persons, and robbed of £100.

MR. ELLICE, M.P. for the St. Andrew's district of burghs, met the electors of Cupar, and expressed his high admiration of Lord Palmerston's policy.

THE SARDINIAN CHAMBERS are about to enter upon a discussion on a bill for raising a loan of thirty millions of francs, or about £1,200,000.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT are making extensive preparations for carrying on the war with vigour and irresistibility.

MM. CUSIN, LEGENDRE, and DUCHESNE, bankers, of the Docks Napoleon, Paris, have been arrested, and are all three in Mazas.

THE ADMIRALTY intend to ameliorate the positions of the chaplains of the navy, so as to hold out increased inducements for gentlemen of high attainments to enter the service.

"TEN THOUSAND A YEAR," recently appeared in Russian at St. Petersburg, and is now, with "The Diary of a late Physician," being translated into Danish by Hans Christian Andersen.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON'S INDISPOSITION continuing, the Bishop of Oxford will take his annual course of confirmations.

THE VISIT of the Emperor and Empress to Lady Cowley's soirée on Tuesday was the first time their Majesties have visited any ambassador or private individual since their marriage.

THE CZAR has conferred the grand cross, second class, of the Order of St. Vladimir upon Rear-Admiral Zavoiko, Military Governor of Kamtschatka and Commander of the port of Petropavlovsk.

AN OLD MAN was released from French prison, the other day, in his 122nd year! He had been incarcerated eighty years previously, for robbery. Fancy continuing to punish a man for having picked our great grandfather's pocket!

GENERAL DE STEEVES, in command of the Baltic army, who was called to St. Petersburg about a month ago to attend the war council, has returned to Mitau to resume his post.

AN INSURRECTION broke out in Monte Video on the 25th of Nov., and for four days that city was the scene of a fratricidal war.

THE NEW SENATORS OF FRANCE are shortly, it is said, to be nominated, viz., the Duke de Mailly, the Duke de Valmy, and the Marquis de Bathys.

A MASKED BALL given for the benefit of the wounded soldiers in the Crimea, took place on the evening of the 5th, at the Theatre Royal, Madrid.

COUNT CORONINI, the Commander-in-Chief of the Austrian army of occupation in the Danubian Principalities, has returned to his post.

THE QUEEN OF SPAIN is said to have grave dissensions with her Ministers.

FOR THIRTY YEARS, there have not been so many British ships lying wind-bound, and for orders, in Queenstown harbour, as at present.

SIR AUGUSTUS CLIFFORD, Usher of the Black Rod, is about to be put on the retired list. Would it seriously impel the British Constitution if he were permitted to take the Black Rod along with him?

OLD CUSTOMS REVIVED.—An attempt was made, on Thursday week, to revive the old system of beacon fires, on the "Worcestershire Beacon," the highest summit of the Malvern range. It was about as successful as the equipment of a body of Nottingham Yeomanry with bows and arrows might be expected to be. At Worcester, only eight miles off, the flame was imperceptible. The expenditure of fuel was enormous.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

RUSSIA has rejected the propositions of which Count Valentine Estorhazy was the bearer. Of course she has! The taking of Kars has rekindled the Russian pride, so humbled by the fall of Sebastopol, and the war is to be protracted for years to come! What are the counter-propositions offered by Russia, while refusing to give up her possessions in Bessarabia? A magnanimous determination to yield her acquisitions (i.e. Kars), for the places taken by the Allies, i.e. Sebastopol, &c., &c. Can such trifling take place in diplomatic affairs in the nineteenth century? Are the Russians children themselves, or do they imagine they are dealing with children? Such transparent juggling and trickery is too absurd. But what is the position of Austria? Count Buol has rejected the counter-propositions of Russia without discussion. Austria being prohibited by the engagements she had entered into from taking any Russian propositions into consideration, Count Buol had no other course. The withdrawal of the Austrian Embassy from St. Petersburg, was announced and definitely fixed for the 18th inst., but since then a slight modification of the expression has been made, and it is now said that as Russia is not expected to make any further concessions, diplomatic relations between Austria and Russia will, in all probability, be suspended. Moreover, Count Buol has announced to the Cabinets of London and Paris, that even while breaking off diplomatic relations with St. Petersburg, Austria will not take the field this year—a peculiarly satisfactory communication, dated as it is on the 13th of January, and showing, that for three hundred and fifty days at least, we cannot count on the co-operation of the armies of the Emperor Francis Joseph! And what is to be done with Prussia? What do we say to the godfather of our heir-apparent? Why, we tell him that, when Austria has broken off relations with Russia (when?) Prussia shall not be admitted to future negotiations for peace, except on one condition, that she will accept the propositions already adopted by the three Powers, that she will formally announce the same to Russia, and, in the event of Russia still refusing, will break off all diplomatic relations with her, and recall her Ambassador. Whether Prussia will do all this remains to be seen. Our godfather is good at "promises and ows;" whether he will renounce "Russia and all her evil works" is another question.

Nothing leaks out concerning the deliberations of the Council of War, although that august body is daily sitting in Paris with official regularity. A difference of opinion exists among the club *quidnuncs* as to the scene of this year's operations, some declaring that the campaign will be continued in the Crimea, while others hold that the French will be prepared to send an army of 80,000 men for disembarkation on the shores of the Baltic—the men to be conveyed in English transports. It is also stated, and that on good foundation, that the command of the Baltic fleet is at length to be put under a man in whom the British public have full trust and confidence—acquired by their experience of his exploits—Admiral Lyons. He has been one of the men produced by the exigencies of the war—has shown not only pluck but command of naval strategy, and is still in the vigour of his life. The new French loan will, it is said, be subscribed entirely in England; at least, such is the wish of the Government.

It is but seldom that I, who, as you must perceive from the tenor of my articles, am but a quiet, slow, unexcitable kind of man, am tempted to stroll into Tattersall's, though, at one time, it was a favourite lounge of mine. The sale of Palmer's horses, on Monday, however, was a temptation not to be resisted, and I found that the sight well repaid me the trouble of the visit. You can scarcely imagine a more heterogeneous assemblage than filled the yard. There were all the London "swells," whose appearance is so well known to the public; the aristocrats, lounging, and lisping, and smoking, and criticising, dressed within an inch of their lives, and looking as if they had but been born to let; the "old boys" of the bygone generation, with their high cravats and sallow, deeply-indentured cheeks, talking the old *maisieres*, and telling the same stories upon the reputation of which they have lived in society since Brummell's time. There were those wondrously stunted trainers and jockeys, with those long great-coats and extraordinarily tight-fitting drab trousers, those shaved faces, and those fresh complexions and healthy aspects, which render them the envy of nearly all their employers; and then there was a mob of the *profanum vulgus*, the gents, City men, sporting publicans and butchers, betting-house keepers, fighting-men, &c., &c., astonishing to behold. The competition was good, and in some instances better even than the lots put up—and nearly all were reputable animals—seemed to warrant; and in the aggregate the sale amounted to £3,906. By the way, the stories told to the newspaper reporters and others visiting Rugeley on business connected with the inquests, which have not yet been made public, are most extraordinary. It would not, of course be prudent to do more than hint at them, at the present time; so, suffice it to say, that murder can scarcely be considered the heaviest of crimes imputed to the accused, whose horrible immorality is stated to have known no distinction of kindred, and in whose nefarious turf transactions many of the leading people of the town are said to be involved.

A new company has issued a prospectus, under the provisions of the Limited Liability Act, for leasing the Surrey Zoological Gardens. It is proposed that the company shall be called the "Surrey Gardens Company," and that the capital shall consist of £40,000, in £10 shares. A large music hall is to be built, capable of accommodating 10,000 persons; panoramic shows, with fireworks, &c., are to be continued; and it is announced that Jullien has consented to undertake, for five years, an engagement as musical director. A place of recreation like this is wanted for the metropolis. There is no garden to which Paterfamilias can take mamma and the younger branches. Our weather is improving; we have more summer than we used to have, and we should be provided with some of those means for passing the time which are so much in vogue among our Continental friends.

The romance of advertising—the "romance of the second column," as it is called, from the situation of the advertisements in the "Times"—is a curious study. The first of these cypher announcements that attracted my attention, was one that commenced with the mysterious word "Simp," and which was said to be the means of communication used by a lady for a brother, who was engaged in some foreign expedition, the access to which by letter was doubtful, but where the "Times" generally made its way. Many curious paragraphs are now daily to be found. The most impertinent one I ever saw was in Monday's "Times," in which Mr. F. Blomfield, after announcing to the world that he belonged to the "Conservative Club," and that he had been to a "Mrs. De Arroyave's ball," ironically requested some gentleman, who had taken his pink and gray silk handkerchief by mistake, to return it to him. "The Admiral" also (can it be Sir Charles Napier?) who hebbdomadically makes his appearance in the same column, sadly wants a few hints from Mr. Rosenthal, or Mr. Fenwick de Porquett, as to the state of his French, which is in the most lamentable condition.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

"ROB ROY" AT COVENT GARDEN—DRURY LANE—OLYMPIC—ADELPHI—GOSSIP.

WHEN a popular favourite has acquired his renown in one particular "line of business," be he in political, literary, or theatrical life, the public understand him and regard him as entirely identified with Whiggery, history, or tragedy, as the case may be, and cannot comprehend him in any other character than Whig, historian, or tragedian. This is, perhaps, more particularly the case with theatrical favourites, with whom the public seem to have a more intimate connection; a man comes before a London audience, and makes his name in one especial "walk," and should he succeed, any deviation into the representation of another style of character is looked upon with wonder. Thus, when at Covent Garden, Professor Anderson, for the first time before a London audience, performed "Rob Roy" on Monday evening, the house was thronged with an attentive audience, eager to see whether the Wizard was gifted with any histrionic power, and should such prove the case, prepared to receive him with enthusiasm. It was a very respectable performance. The Wizard has a portly person and a loud voice, his modesty stands not in the way of his preferment, he is at home in the conventionalities of the part, and being believed in by the public as an open-handed liberal man, he obtained a great deal of applause. Mrs. J. W. Wallack was the Helen Macgregor, perhaps best that could be found; and Mr. Stuart, that

"old familiar friend," played Rashleigh Osbaldestone, and poured out the words between his teeth after his usual "caged lion" fashion. A word of praise for a Mr. Gourlay, of the Edinburgh Theatre, who played "Bailie Nicol Jarvie." I have never seen Mackay, of whose performance of the part Scotchmen will talk you blind, and I believe that I have had a great loss; but I was much pleased with the quiet humour and effective bits of by-play shown by Mr. Gourlay. As for Mr. Cowell—(by the way, why is he called Mr. Sam Cowell in the bills?—a most offensive piece of familiarity!—we don't hear of Mr. Bob Keeley or Mr. Jack Buckstone!), he is evidently a prime favourite in the pit and gallery, or he would have been hissed off the stage for his mummery and buffoonery. With the recollection of Murray, of Edinburgh, it was painful to see the clowneries of this person. It is seldom that I have much amusement at the theatre, as I hold neither mediocre nor good acting as calculated to amuse—the one producing weariness, the other excitement. To afford amusement, the acting must be desperately bad, and in that case Mr. George Perren, now playing Francis Osbaldestone at Covent Garden, is the most amusing man in London. You can conceive nothing so bad as the gestures, walk, and declamation of this young man, his declamation being inaudible, and his walk and gestures modelled after the Marionette school. It is but fair to say that he is a singer, and that he sung the music allotted to him more than respectfully. The selection of the songs, however, is most extraordinary. Francis Osbaldestone and the Bailie are thrown among a curious set of people in an inn, on whom they have never set eye before, and with whom they immediately quarrel, and no sooner is a peace patched up than they all begin to sing, "Should auld acquaintance be forgot?" as an appropriate air! The piece is full of such anomalies. A word of praise to Mr. Pearson, who played Dugal in a wild, rough, earnest manner, and much laudation to Mr. Anderson for the liberality displayed in the appointments, and to Mr. Harris, for the excellency of the groupings and the *mise en scène*.

Drury Lane continues thronged. The squib of the "Great Gun Trick" is thoroughly successful, and Mr. Charles Mathews' imitation of the Wizard of the North is doing good to both houses by its excellency, as many people who have not seen the latter now go to Covent Garden in order that that they may be in a position to enjoy the imitation. Mr. Smith having persevered in his refusal to allow any member of his company to appear at Windsor, the part of the Marquis de Frontignac, in the "Wonderful Woman," was played before the Queen by Mr. David Fisher, who, it is needless to say, did not come up to the original representative. Mr. Blanchard's pantomime, "Hey Diddle Diddle," is still most attractive.

I should think that scarcely any theatre in London has had such audiences as the Olympic since Christmas. I told you, last week, I had made two vain attempts to get into the theatre, and at last I have succeeded in catching a glimpse of the burlesque. I say a "glimpse," for what is seen over the scented head of a tall young lady of about nineteen, does not deserve a better name, more especially where the tall young lady is perpetually distracting your attention by turning round and asking questions. From the glimpse obtained, then, I should say that the "Discreet Princess, or the Three Glass Distaffs," is elegant and amusing,—not quite up to the standard of the old *Planche* burlesques, nor affording so much scope for Robson's powers as the "Yellow Dwarf," but neatly and pointedly written, and being the only extravaganza in London, unusually attractive.

At the Adelphi, Mr. Stirling Coyne has produced a capital farce, with the *ad captandum* title "Urgent Private Affairs," plot and incidents having nothing to do with the subject with which these words are now generally allied. There is, however, plenty of bustle, noise, and practical joking. Everybody is mistaken for everybody else, flower-pots are thrown from the windows upon the heads of inoffensive passers-by, and Messrs. Wright and Paul Bedford are allowed to gag together. Can I say more for the success of such a piece, when played before such an audience as now usually assembles within the Adelphi? An adaptation of "The Boot's Story" in the "Holly Tree Inn," is underlined for production, in which Mr. Webster is to appear.

Theatrical gossip is in full swing just now, the success of the various pantomimes being the staple subject. The *Quid Pro quo* promised by the Wizard in retaliation for Mr. Charles Mathews' imitation of him is also much discussed. From all I can hear, those who expect any personality in the squib will be grievously disappointed; as, though full of point, it is written in the most good-humoured spirit. The question of license is still pending, I believe, the Chamberlain having been rather strict on such points lately. Those who do not know Mr. Leigh Murray's power of mimicry will be astonished, and his imitation of Charles Mathews happens to be the best in his *repertoire*.

THE ROAD THROUGH THE PARK AGAIN.

We have rather a suicidal habit in this country, when beset or threatened by any particular grievance, of complaining too much. A wrong, real or fancied, is discovered. The national freedom of speech—or perhaps, we should say, the way in which the first outbreaks of that inestimable privilege are pandered to by many whose office it should be to correct and modify them—leads to exaggerated clamour. Re-action immediately follows reflection. The wrongdoer is generally found to have been over-abused, and that uncouth, good-humoured British modicism of chivalry known as "fair-play," is only too ready to make more than ample amends. The result is, that the evil, whatever it may be, is allowed to develop itself un molested in its original conditions.

About this time two years, numerous excitable but not very thoughtful patriots indulged in visions of Tower Hill, with a scenic revival of the old "business" and properties, the Royal Consort representing the principal personage, his crime being a fancied interference with the constitutional rights of the country that had so generously received him. This was specifically found to be very ridiculous, and his Royal Highness became so exorbitantly popular, that, supposing him to have really entertained any ideas of a *coup d'état* (from which he will hardly thank us for taking the trouble to ab-olive him), he might certainly have set about it very quietly, and without the least possibility of suspicion. Just so, in November last, Sir Benjamin Hall, the Minister for Public Works, divided the popular olim with the effigies of the lamented Guido Fawkes, for a rumoured ukase against the liberties of the Metropolis, in the shape of a scheme for spoiling St. James's Park by a matter-of-fact unsightly bridge across its most ornamental portion. The charge was found to be unsubstantiated, at any rate premature. "Too much fuss" had been made, as usual. Public indignation expended itself in idle clamour. The matter was supposed to be dropped, and Sir Benjamin was left in peace, as it now turns out, to prepare his plans for the bridge as it was originally proposed, and the design of which has never been abandoned.

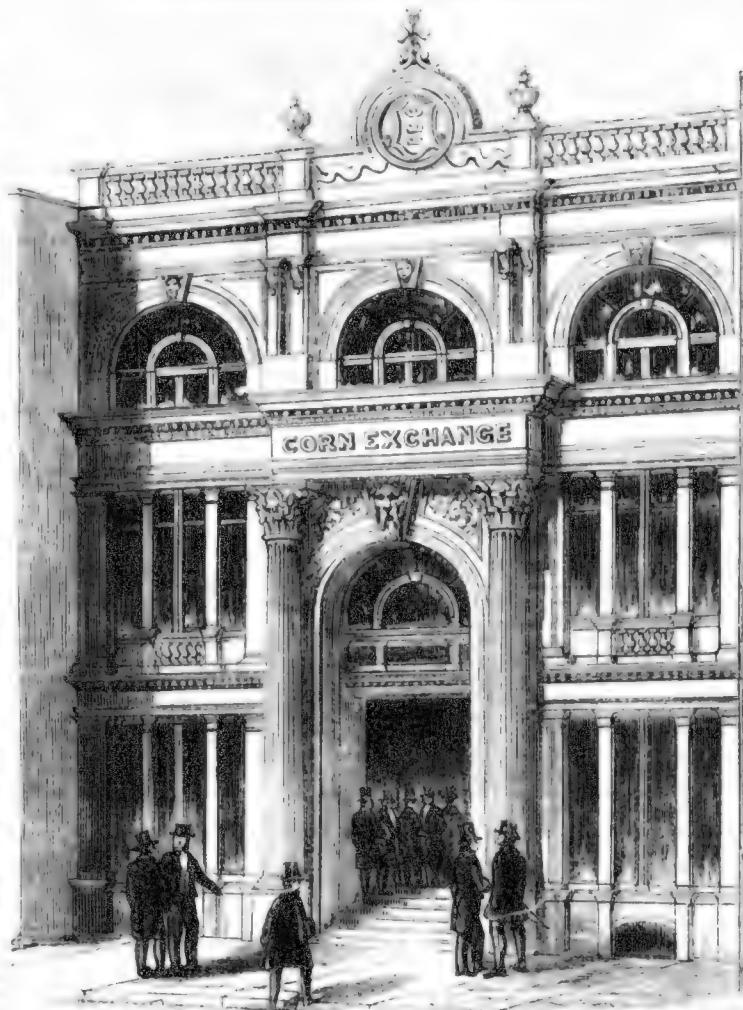
Sir Benjamin informed a deputation last week, that the bridge was still, and had never ceased to be, in contemplation, but exonerated himself from all blame as to its origin. He was only a servant, not a member of her Majesty's Cabinet. He had been ordered to prepare plans for such an undertaking, and had done so. The nature of those plans he was not required to divulge. He would content himself with saying, that three of the metropolitan parks were the property of her Majesty—St. James's, the Green, and Hyde Parks; such not being the case with the Victoria, Battersea, and Regent's Parks; which latter three "he might call the people's parks."

This is all very fair and candid, as was Sir Benjamin's almost unsolicited assurance, that nothing had been or would be done towards the execution of the project without the consent of Parliament. To cast new odium, or revisit the old, on the Minister of Works, after such assertions, would be in the most unjustifiable manner to doubt the word of a very honourable gentleman. But the question as to the grievance itself must be mooted afresh. Is St. James's Park to be spoiled? and at whose wishes, and by whose authority? We are told that the Park is her Majesty's property; and many true Britons will no doubt receive it as a satisfactory proof of the stability of our institutions that an English monarch is not necessitated to sacrifice personal rights to vulgar clamour, as is the case with so many continental sovereigns. Any such indications (not that they are wanted), we hail with as much delight as anybody. We should be sorry to see our Queen obliged to forego any of her sacred rights as a private gentlewoman. We rejoice that she is not compelled to make high-flown speeches to mobs or to kiss all the drummers in her army on any particular day in the year. But is not magnanimity, like honesty, in any case the best policy?

NEW CORN EXCHANGE AT HULL.

CONSPICUOUS among the new buildings in the town of Kingston-on-Hull—which, under the name of Myton-Wyk, was of considerable importance in the days of the Anglo-Saxons, which derived its present royal designation from no less illustrious a personage than our First Edward, which, in later days, was the first town to close its gates against King Charles, and was twice besieged, in consequence, by the royal troops—is the new Corn Exchange, which was opened with a public dinner on the 8th inst., and which is represented by the accompanying engraving.

For some time the erection of such a building was spoken of, inasmuch as the requirements of the town demanded greater accommodation than has been afforded in the old Corn Exchange; but it was not until eight months ago that the scheme had been so far developed by the property committee of the Council, that the foundation-stone was laid. Since that time, the 2nd of May, the work has been energetically pushed forward; and we have now the gratification of recording its completion. The site of the building is that of the old Custom-house, in the High Street. It consists of a striking and elaborate stone front towards High Street, with an arched entrance, supported by Corinthian columns, and an entablature on each side. The whole is surmounted by an attic with ornamented balustrades, the centre being occupied by the Corporation arms, on each side of which are placed ornamental vases. The windows are all plate glass, and large in size; the front of the building recedes about two yards from, and the floor is elevated three feet above the level of, the street. In the front portion of the building, on each side of the entrance, are offices, there being three rooms below and six above. There are also cellars containing room for heating apparatus, stores, &c. The front of the building is 60 feet high, and the grand entrance is 12 feet wide, with a massive gate, admirably covered with copper bronze. Passing through the archway, we enter the hall, very striking in appearance, owing both to its great length and the composition of the roof. In length it is 160, in width 44, in height up to the highest point, 36 feet. The hall is covered with seventeen semicircular laminated trusses, supported on carved corbels, fixed on the centre of pilasters on each side of the room, the spandrels being filled in with cast-iron work. The covering or roof is in the Crystal Palace style, and the whole of it consists of rough plate-glass, with the exception of the portions of ornamental perforated plaster work, by which the building is ventilated. The front of the hall is entirely clear. There are thirty-six gas brackets fixed around the walls. A hotel is situated at the eastern extremity, and consists of a large dining-room, smoking-room, news-rooms, and eight bed-rooms. The kitchens are fitted up with Flavell's patent-cooking apparatus. At the back of this is the public or free market, to which there are two roads, one for ingress and another for egress. This market is 30 feet in length and 40 feet in width. It will thus be seen that the structure is very extensive and convenient, an



THE NEW CORN EXCHANGE, HULL.

ts capabilities ample. The edifice, of which the entire will be about £5,500, is not merely intended for commercial purposes, but will be used for public meetings, and other purposes. Everyone who visits the new building, will see a glance that it is one of the most useful public buildings in the town, and that architectural beauty has by no means been overlooked.

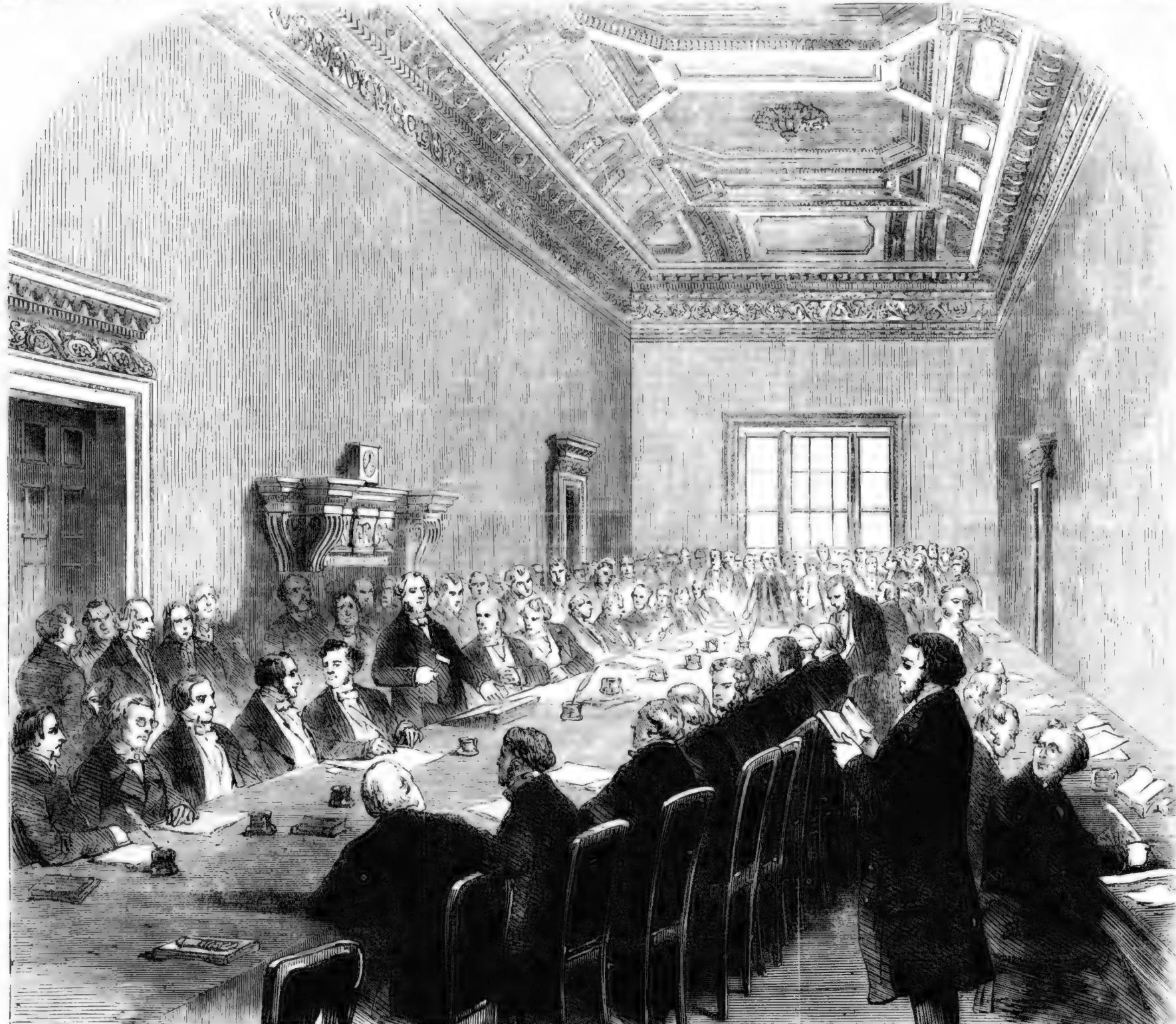
THE METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS.

THE local boards created by the New Metropolitan Improvement Act, will have to undertake the completion of the works of drainage which have been actively carried on by the successive Sewer Commissions for the last six years; and the Central, or Metropolitan Board of Works, presided over by Mr. Thwaites, will have to plan and execute the works necessary for leading away from the inhabited banks of the Thames the sewage which now pollutes its waters. On the efficiency of this Board, it is not perhaps too much to say, that the working of the Act, for good or for evil, will mainly depend. Under these circumstances, it may be useful to furnish the reader with some idea of the work to be done; and this perhaps cannot be more clearly represented, than by referring to a few of the leading questions as to London drainage, which are in dispute between the most eminent engineers of the day on the one hand, and the amateurs and officials of the late Board of Health school on the other.

The questions in dispute may be classed under the following divisions:—1st, size of street sewers and house drains; 2nd, material for sewers and drains; 3rd, mode of constructing sewers and drains. Ten years ago, these subjects had scarcely attracted the attention of first-class engineers, whose time was fully occupied with mines, land-drainage, canals, railroads, docks, and sea embankments. But, within the last ten years, engineers have directed their science and experience in managing land and water to the drainage of cities. In that time they have learned much as to the details needful for accommodating scientific theories to the varying practical requirements of different localities.

In 1852, Mr. Frank Forster, the engineer of the Metropolitan Commission, prepared a plan for protecting the Thames from sewage by intercepting sewers, or what we may call three artificial subterranean rivers or tunnels, into which the contents of the street sewers of the north side of the Thames were to be turned and conveyed away some miles down the river, too far to return with the tide.

Mr. Frank Forster retired, and died; and in 1853-4, his successor, Mr. Bazalgette, in conjunction with Mr. Haywood the City engineer, prepared revised plans, on the same principle. These plans were submitted in detail to the consulting engineers, Sir William Cubitt and Mr. Robert Stephenson, and approved by them, the estimates being increased by the consulting engineers, to provide for contingencies, by some £300,000. At this stage of the proceedings Mr. Roe appeared with a rival plan, in which he proposed to do the work



MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS IN THE BANQUETING HALL, BURLINGTON HOUSE.

effectually at a saving of some £450,000 in expense on the north side. The chief part of this saving consisted in making the intercepting tunnels considerably smaller than those proposed by the engineers.

Mr. Roe's scheme was examined very minutely by the consulting engineers, who reported against it in December, 1854. In November of the same year, Mr. F. O. Ward, a surgeon by education, was nominated a commissioner of sewers; and within three months of his engineering experience, he announced that he had a plan for re-draining London on an improved system, this being a work requiring more than two thousand miles of sewers. His plan was not approved of.

Without, however, entering further into the different plans proposed, we shall confine ourselves to a brief enumeration of the functions of this Board, and the alterations it is empowered to make, in consequence of the rights vested in it by the Legislature.

The members of the newly-constituted Board, then, may, and are required to, appoint, for the purposes of the Improvement Act, all kinds of officers and servants they may deem necessary, and may allow them such salaries as they may think fit. To defray all the expenses incurred by the Board, the members may assess such sums on the different parts of the metropolis as in their judgment ought to be assessed on them. The Board has, therefore, an indefinite power of taxation, subject to no other restraint, apparently, than the liability of the members of the Board—who receive no emolument—to bear their share, in common with their constituents, of all the expenditure. The duties of the Board of Works are as great as its powers. All the main sewers of the whole metropolitan districts are placed under its direction. It must provide for their efficiency. It may, too, if it thinks fit, take any or all of the local sewers connected with the main sewers now under the control of parishes, into its own hands, and may do all that is necessary—even to compelling individuals to make drains—for the efficient and complete sewerage of the whole metropolis, subject only to the condition of submitting its plans to the Commissioners of Public Works. It is a body corporate, with a common seal and perpetual succession, taking, holding, buying, and selling land for the purposes of the Act. It may direct a union between vestries, or the separation of parts of parishes, and may require them to appoint or remove officers; it is to regulate the naming of streets and the numbering of houses, and to keep buildings from projecting into the public thoroughfare; it may widen streets, roads, and public ways, with the approbation of the Commissioners of Public Works if the expense exceed £50,000; but if it exceed £100,000, the approbation of Parliament must be obtained. For any one improvement below these sums, its power seems absolute. In truth, the

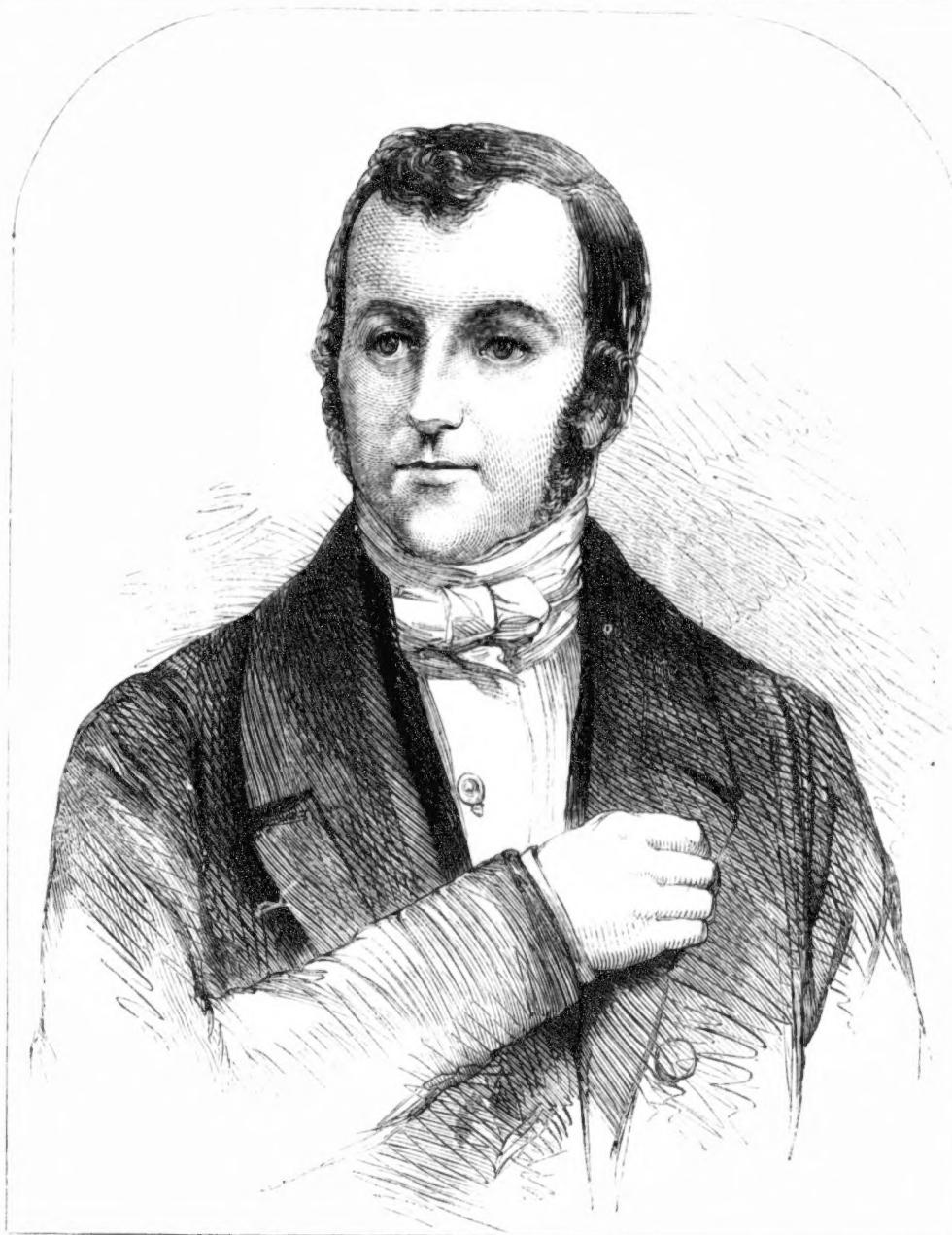
Metropolitan Board of Works may ultimately become the great instrument for managing in common all the business which concerns the several parishes of the metropolis. The vestries will have to look after the lighting, paving, and cleaning the streets, and some subordinate matters, but the Board of Works may probably soon control all; so that its importance can scarcely be over-estimated.

MEETINGS OF THE BOARD.

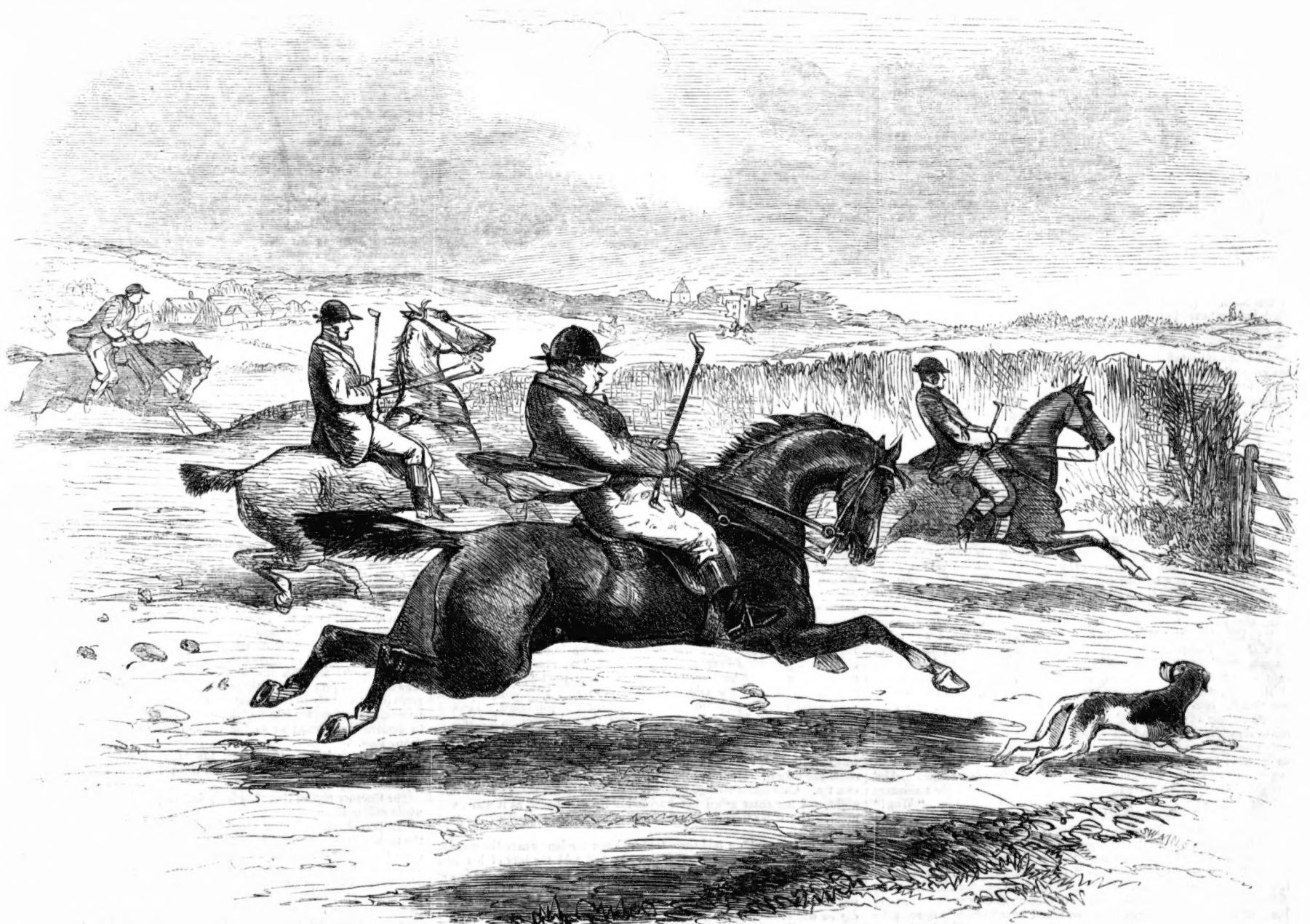
The first legal meeting¹ of the Board for the transaction of general business, was held on the 1st of January at Burlington House. The forty-two members constituting the Board were all present, and, at the request of the Chairman, signed their names to a sheet of paper, in order that they might be recognised by the Secretary. The business was necessarily of a preliminary character, which has, to a great extent, been the case with the subsequent meetings, held on each successive Monday, since the election of the Chairman. From a letter read at one of the meetings from Sir Benjamin Hall, it appears that the Board is allowed the use of a room in Burlington House until the 22nd inst., when it will be required by the Government. In the mean time steps are being taken by the Board for resuming possession of the property and works formerly in the hands of the Sewers Commissioners, and which, under the Act, became, from January 1, vested in the Metropolitan Board of Works.

MR. JOHN THWAITES.

The appointment of Mr. John Thwaites a woolen-draper in the Borough, to the distinguished and lucrative post of Chairman to the New Metropolitan Board of Works, invests him with a public importance which many of his fellow citizens will envy, and of which he himself may justly be proud. It is not every day that we hear of a draper laying aside his scissors and his yard-measure, and stepping from behind the counter into a position worth £2,000 a year. This, however, Mr. Thwaites has done; and it is not unworthy of notice, in connection with this fact, that among the many aspirants to the office, there were barristers, magistrates, Members of Parliament, and one man at least of considerable political eminence—Mr. Roebuck, who has long been known to the public as one of its most disinterested and faithful servants. Altogether the circumstances connected with Mr. Thwaites's election to the office he now holds, must be considered unusual; and as his name in connection with the meetings of this new Board of Works will be more prominently before the public than it has ever yet been, it is this week our pleasing duty, as pictorial chroniclers of current events, to supply our readers with a portrait of the Chairman of this Board, and the few facts of local notoriety hitherto connected with his name.



JOHN THWAITES, ESQ., CHAIRMAN OF THE NEW METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS.



"WOA, HORSE, WOA! BOTHERATION! DON'T YOU SEE IT'S A GATE P!" (DRAWN BY PHIZ.)

We understand that Mr. Thwaites has taken an active part for many years in the local affairs of Southwark; having, "among other things," says a weekly contemporary, "effected the amalgamation of rival Gas Companies, so as to secure a diminution of working costs by the elimination of double plants, double salaries, and double charges of all kinds; the result being a considerable reduction in the price, and improvement in the quality of the gas supplied, without diminution of profit to the suppliers. His success in this, and other similar local undertakings, marked Mr. Thwaites in the eyes of his fellow-citizens of the South side as a fit man to represent their interest in the Commission of Sewers, now on the point of winding up. In that Commission he has had an opportunity of becoming thoroughly acquainted with what may be called the subterranean affairs of the metropolis. For while, on the one hand, the appeals of deputations and of individuals, and the current business of the office, brought under his notice in the most practical form the grievances and wishes of the rate-payers in respect of drainage; it also fortunately happened, on the other hand, that the principal expositor and champion of the modern sanitary system was appointed a Commissioner during Mr. Thwaites's term of office, and delivered a series of addresses on combined house drainage, tubular street drainage, main intercepting drainage, and the agricultural utilisation of sewage, which expositions of principle, it may be readily supposed, were not lost upon his intelligent colleague. Mr. Thwaites and Mr. F. O. Ward soon appreciated each other; and though, at the outset, they stood opposed on several occasions, yet latterly they have fought side by side in almost every important debate; their differences of opinion being only such as mark, on both sides, an honest independence of judgment, and a decision of each question as it arises, not in the spirit of party, but in the light of simple truth.

To the knowledge of public affairs thus acquired in various schools of experience, Mr. Thwaites, if we are rightly informed, adds personal qualities which fit him in an eminent degree to guide the proceedings of a popular assembly. He unites suavity of manner with firmness of will; tact with single-mindedness and honesty of purpose; and a good deal of natural eloquence with remarkable powers of application and capacity for the despatch of business. Such, at least, is the view which, we are assured, is taken by his supporters, as to his qualifications for the responsible office to which they have named him.

If the facts of the case be as here represented, and we know of nothing to the contrary, Mr. Thwaites's supporters, the important body over whom he presides, and the inhabitants of the metropolis generally, may congratulate themselves on the appointment of this new Board of Works under the direction of so competent a president.

We may add that Mr. Thwaites's office as chairman is worth not less than £1,500, and not more than £2,000, a year; and this valuable place may be vacated by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the Board, "convened for considering the question of such removal." The friends of Mr. Thwaites, it is said, are about giving him a dinner on the occasion of his leaving Southwark. A committee of management has been formed, and the dinner will take place at the Bridge Hotel, as soon as the necessary arrangements can be completed.

A HUNTING SKETCH.

DID I ever see old Prupper out wi' th' hounds? Ah, that I did, surely! Darn me 'twere as good as a play—ah, and a great deal better, 'cos no play as I ever see showed a man a' horseback in such a right straightdown fight as were o' d Prupper that day! It's about three year ago, now, when the "old Hall" were like a nobleman's or squire's hall, not like a darned cotton-spinner's place as it is now; it were when the Merrifields was livin' there, and keepin' up mansion at a beautiful old rate," as song says, and there was always the first o' company, and such eatin', drinkin', and singin' as none of you ever could bring to mind. Old Prupper, he were some trade in London onst, a baster, I think, leastways his velvet caps was allays uncommon neat and natty, and the tile he went to church in had such a gloss that it shone like a piece of lookin' glass. Old Prupper he'd come into our neighbourhood lately, and taken Croft Cottage, and rebuilt the stabbin', and brought down two nags, and gave out that he was fond of old English Sport, and intended goin' a buster, and no mistake. Squire Merrifield, who were just one o' the right sort, he calls on old Prupper, and makes himself agreeable, and asks the old boy over to dinner; and he comes and is so jolly, and turns so stiff into the Squire's port, and gets on so well with Miss Ellen, and finds Captain Silvertop (which he was sweet on Miss Ellen at the time, being her cousin), finds the Captain and all so pleasant, that nothin' could go wrong with him. So, when the ladies has gone, and huntin's talked about after dinner, when the Squire says, "Are you any good across country, Prupper?" says he. "Good," says he. "I believe you," says he. "If there's a thing I'm fond of, it's the music of the pack," says he. "All right, old boy," says the Squire, who was gettin' a little a-head in the wine, "the hounds meet to-morrow, and I'll give you a mount." "I've got a mount myself, at home," says Prupper. "Not one of them old screws I see in your stable to-day?" says the Squire. "No, no, you sleep here, Prupper, my boy, and we'll give you a mount o' the right sort." So old Prupper stopped, worse luck for him, and step in the bachelor's room, and in the mornin' got up lookin' fishy and frightened, but he forced his pluck and sent over for his leathers and tops and the natty velvet cap. And the Squire, who was as fresh as paint—I don't believe thirty bottle would take the shine out of him—says to me, "Tom," says he, "I'll ride Nelson as usual, and take old Brookside over for Mr. Prupper; he can be depended on," says he, "and knows every inch of ground for miles; he'll carry him steady." So I goes round to the stable and has the saddle put on Brookside, when in comes Captain Silvertop. "What's that for?" says he. "Miss Ellen's going to ride Brookside; why don't you put a side-saddle on?" "Beg pardon, Captain," says I, "Guv'nor said saddle Brookside for Mr. Prupper." "Prupper," says the Captain, a grinnin' from ear to ear. "No! no! he's a young daredevil, he is a perfick Nimrod; put the side-saddle on Brookside, and take over Cardinal for Mr. Prupper." When I see him grin, I knowed what was meant, but I knowed my place too, and so said nothin'. Well, to make a long story short, we tried Shipton Wood, blank; Dawson's Plantation, blank; and it was not until we got to Sanley Hill, that old Tarnish, the stanchest hound of the pack, told us Reynard was at home. With one crash, head up, sterns down, the whole pack broke cover, and away we went through Thornton Gorse, down Dobieson Whins, Fore-stall Wood, down at a rattling pace to the Ewehurst Road, from there to the Brick-kiln, crossing the stream to Coleman's Folly, and away to Broad Oak. The Captain and Miss Ellen kept neck and neck the whole way, she lookin' fast-rate in her habit, and ridin' as steady as a rock; but I'd little time to look at them,—all my looks was taken up with old Prupper. So long as it was straight runnin', he sat uncommon well, knees a little shakey, and toes a little pointin' outwards, but nothin' particular. "Cardinal," he were in full force! I see him a pullin' at the curb, which old Prupper hung on to like mad, and all he wanted was to settle into his gallop, which old Prupper wouldn't have. He were all safe so long as we was ridin' down the lanes, but on the first bit o' open, the Cardinal, feelin' the turf under his hoof, began to lay out, and old Prupper's knees got queerer than ever. A cold sweat seemed breakin' out over his face as he see what was a-head; there was certainly a stiffish rasper, and a five-bar in the middle, for which the Cardinal seemed makin' straight. One jam he gives to his natty velvet cap comes the millitary style of droppin' his heels, and tries to hold the Cardinal in. "Wo!" says he, shoutin' like a carter, "Wo, horse! wo! Bo'heration! don't you see it's a gate?" There was the last words I heard him speak that day. In droppin' his heels, he'd given Cardinal a touch of the steel—a thing he never could bear;—he was at the gate like a good'un, and cleared it in style; but poor old Prupper, he flew, ah! like them rockets the boys lets off a Guy Fawkes's day. He went clean over Cardinal's head, and for three days after never showed. He were then chaffed by every one as met him, but he bore it first-rate; and even now I hear when he's in company they can always turn the laugh upon him, when they think he's goin' head, by just hollerin', "Wo, horse! wo!"

THE BURNOPFIELD MURDER.

The inquest upon the body of Mr. Robert Sterling, the unfortunate young surgeon murdered near Burnopfield on the 1st of November, was resumed on Friday of last week in the village inn. Mr. Hunter, solicitor, appeared for the prosecution; Mr. Stoker watched the case for the prisoners.

The coroner, before examining witnesses, read a communication that he had received from the Home Office, to the effect that, in the event of the watch of the deceased having been taken in pledge by any unlicensed person, Government would remit the penalty incurred, provided the party who had received the watch came forward promptly and produced it.

The first witness called by the police was Thomas Robinson, a farmer, living half a mile from Winlaton. He stated that he led a cart of coals to Rayne's shop on Monday, November 5. Rayne, it appears, called on the witness and said he particularly wanted these coals, as he had none. The purport of this evidence appears to have been to negative that of Foreman, who stated, on a former occasion, that he delivered coals to Rayne on November 1, the presumption being that the supply could not be continued in so short a period as three days.

Cornelius Johnson was the next witness, and he deposed to certain facts contradictory of the evidence brought forward on the last occasion in support of an *alibi* on the part of Rayne. Another witness, named Watson, a youth fourteen years of age, at first refused to be sworn. When his objection was overcome, his evidence was of that uncertain character, owing to his want of recollection, that it may be said to be of but little importance.

Elizabeth Stokesley, sister of Margaret Watson, who was examined last sitting, said that seven weeks that night she was living at Harelaw, and remembered John Cain coming to her sister's house. He was known by the name of "Whisky Jack." He came about eight o'clock in the evening. She remembered that it was seven weeks ago, because she was at Newcastle the week before. Her sister, her husband, and the lodger, were all in the house when Cain came. Her sister asked Cain if he knew anything about the murder. He replied that he knew all about it. Her sister said Mr. Watson's assistant said that a jobber came past twenty minutes after the murder was committed, on foot. Cain replied "No." He said that the first man came past after the murder within twenty minutes, and on horseback. Witness said that poor Mr. Sterling's head was much beaten, she understood, with a stick. Cain replied, "No, it was done with a gun." Witness remarked that it was a wonder that the jobber did not see the blood. Cain replied that it was most spilt among the grass. He further said that a man was ploughing in a field on the opposite side of the road; he could look through the trees and see him; and that if the man had been at the bottom of the field instead of the top, he might have seen the deed done. He said that there was a man also ploughing, and some women digging potatoes, in a field near the plantation. He said that it was a quick-hedge where they trailed the body through, but that it was rather down, and they trailed it to a large bush, about twenty yards from the road. Cain stopped at their house all night. Cain had some whisky with him, and took a glass. Witness made him some tea, but he could not take it. He left at noon next day. She did not know where he went to. Cain had a strange look when he came to her sister's house that night, and her sister asked her husband if he might stay, as it was a wet night. Her sister thought that some one was after him, as she knew that he smuggled.

By a juryman—Cain told them that he knew the lane where the murder was committed. He told them all that she had told the jury of his own free will. On the Friday before he left their house he was out of the house looking up and down the lane several times, as if he was afraid some one was after him. She had never seen him so down-spirited as he was on the day he was at her sister's house. He told them that he knew Smaile's Lane as well as the floor that they were walking on.

These being all the witnesses the police had to examine at that time,

WEEKLY OBITUARY.

EDEN, M. E.—Dec. 20, drowned in the river Medway, Morton Edward Eden Esq., engineer in the H.E.C. Engineers, in his 21st year. The deceased was the second surviving son of the Hon. and Rev. William Eden, Rector of Bishopbourn, son of the first Lord Henley, by his wife Anne Maria, daughter of W. Kelham, Esq., and widow of the nineteenth Lord Grey de Ruthyn, whose daughter, the present peeress, is now Marchioness of Hastings. The deceased, who was a most promising officer, was returning at night in a boat from a shooting expedition, together with a brother officer; but owing to the fog and the darkness, missed his way: the boat was found overturned next day, but his body was not recovered for nearly a fortnight afterwards.

MACKENZIE, SIR A.—Lately, at his seat in Scotland, aged 50, died Sir Alexander Mackenzie, eighth baronet, of Coal House, Ross-shire. He was born in 1805, and succeeded to the title and estates on the death of his father in 1848, but never married. Entering the Indian army early in life, about the year 1823, Sir Alexander rose rapidly to distinction. Not to speak of minor campaigns in which he was engaged, and for which no medals were bestowed, he was present at the siege and capture of Bhurtpore, in 1825-6, and had the medal for that service. He was afterwards Deputy-Judge-Advocate-General with the army of Gwalior, and had his horse killed under him at the battle of Maharajpore in 1843. He also took part in the first campaign on the Sutlej in 1845-6, but was not engaged in any of the great battles. He finally retired from the Bengal army in 1851, after a service of more than twenty-six years. Since his return to Scotland, Sir Alexander had won the esteem and respect of every one as a landlord and a neighbour, and his early decease, in the prime of manhood, is much regretted. He is succeeded in his title and estates by his next brother, William, who was born in 1806, and is unmarried. The third brother, Robert Ramsay, now heir presumptive to the title, was born in 1811, and married in 1846 a daughter of Richard Jones, Esq., Member of Council at Sydney, Australia; and another brother, the deceased Baronet is married to a daughter of the celebrated Scotch divine, the Rev. Dr. T. Chalmers.

HAMILTON, LADY.—On the 5th inst., aged 85, in Baker Street, died Emily Sophia, Lady Hamilton, widow of the late Lieutenant-General Sir John Hamilton, Bart., of Woodbrook, county of Tyrone, G.C.T.S. Her Ladyship, who was born in 1770, was the daughter of G. P. Monck, Esq., by Lady Araminta Beresford, daughter of the first Earl of Tyrone, and married, in 1794, Sir John, then Colonel, Hamilton, who was created a baronet in 1814, for his gallantry in defending the dismantled fortress of Alba de Tormes, in the Peninsular War, with a force of 1,500 men, against the late Field-Marshal Soult, at the head of ten times that force, supported by twenty pieces of artillery. By her late husband, her Ladyship was the mother of four daughters, besides the present baronet, Sir John James Hamilton, who was M.P. for Sudbury from 1837 to 1838, and is married to a daughter of the late General Sir James Cockburn, Bart.

ADAMS, J., Esq.—On the 10th inst., in Hyde Park Street, in his 70th year, died John Adams, Esq., sergeant-at-law, and assistant judge for the county of Middlesex. He was the third son of the late Simon Adams, Esq., of East Haddon, Northamptonshire. Recorder of Daventry, by Sarah, daughter of Cadwallader Coker, Esq., of Bicester House, Oxon, and was born in 1780. He was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in 1810; and married, first, in 1811, Elizabeth, only daughter of W. Nation, Esq., of Exeter, who died in 1814. He married, second, in 1817, Jane, daughter of Thomas Martin, Esq., of Nottingham; and being again left a widow in 1825, married, thirdly, in the following year, his cousin, Charlotte Priscilla, daughter of John Coker, Esq., of Bicester. One of the sons of the late Sergeant Adams was the Rev. D. Adams, Fellow of Merton College, Oxford, author of "The Old Man's Home," and several other very beautiful stories. He died some few years since at Bonchurch, in the Isle of Wight. Another son was Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, and for some years tutor of Winchester. Sergeant Adams was respected and feared upon the Bench rather than liked, being of an impudent and irritable temperament. He had, however, a kind heart, and was a man of sterling integrity.

GOULBURN, RIGHT HON. H.—On the 12th inst., at Beachworth House, Dorking, aged 71, died the Right Hon. Henry Goulburn, M.P. for the University of Cambridge. The deceased gentleman, who was the son of the late M. Goulburn, Esq., of Jamaica, by Susan, daughter of the late Viscount Chetwynd, and brother of Sergeant E. Goulburn, M.P. for Leicester, from 1835 to 1837, was born in 1784, and graduated at Trinity College, Cambridge, B.A. 1805 and M.A. 1808. In 1811 he married Jane, daughter of the fourth Lord Rokeye, who, we believe, survives him. Mr. Goulburn first entered Parliament in 1807, as M.P. for Horsham, which he represented till 1812. He next sat for the disengaged borough of St. German's from that time till 1818; represented West Looe from 1828 till 1826, and Armathwaite from that time till 1831, when he was chosen for the University in the place of Mr. Cavendish, now Earl of Burlington. He has sat for the University for nearly twenty-five years. Mr. Goulburn was a deputy-lieutenant for both Surrey and Middlesex, and a Commissioner of Ecclesiastical Estates. He served the post of Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department from 1810 to 1812, and for the Colonies from that time till 1821, when he became Secretary for Ireland, which post he held till 1828. He subsequently became Chancellor of the Exchequer under the Duke of Wellington's Administration, from 1828 to 1830, and unsuccessfully contested the Speakership with Mr. C. Shave Lefevre in 1839, on the elevation of Mr. Abercromby to the Peership as Lord Dunfermline. He accepted office twice under Sir Robert Peel.

THE BURNOPFIELD MURDER.

The inquest upon the body of Mr. Robert Sterling, the unfortunate young surgeon murdered near Burnopfield on the 1st of November, was resumed on Friday of last week in the village inn. Mr. Hunter, solicitor, appeared for the prosecution; Mr. Stoker watched the case for the prisoners.

The coroner, before examining witnesses, read a communication that he had received from the Home Office, to the effect that, in the event of the watch of the deceased having been taken in pledge by any unlicensed person, Government would remit the penalty incurred, provided the party who had received the watch came forward promptly and produced it.

The first witness called by the police was Thomas Robinson, a farmer, living half a mile from Winlaton. He stated that he led a cart of coals to Rayne's shop on Monday, November 5. Rayne, it appears, called on the witness and said he particularly wanted these coals, as he had none. The purport of this evidence appears to have been to negative that of Foreman, who stated, on a former occasion, that he delivered coals to Rayne on November 1, the presumption being that the supply could not be con-

tinued in so short a period as three days.

Mr. Stoker called evidence to sustain an *alibi* for Rayne on the 2nd of November, the day that it was sworn he offered to dispose of a watch at Durham.

Thomas Nicholson, a blacksmith at Winlaton, said that Rayne came to his shop, which was opposite Rayne's, in Hanover Square, on the 2nd of Nov. He came to witness's shop about 4 o'clock, as he was going to his tea. He looked in at the window, and said that he doubted that Michael Atkinson was not going to get his pony, and that he (Rayne) wanted his ware down to Blaydon on the Saturday. Witness recollects that it was the 2nd of November, because it was the fair week at Newcastle, and Michael Atkinson was away seeking a pony that day.

By Mr. Hunter—It could not be the week after. Atkinson went to Hexham fair the week after. He did not recollect seeing Rayne on the Thursday. Rayne's brother asked him to come to the inquest-room.

John Oliver, known as "Coffee Johnny," a chain-maker, living at Winlaton, recollects seeing Rayne on the 2nd of November; the first time about a quarter past one o'clock, as he (witness) was coming from Mr. Howdon's field. Rayne was standing at his own shop door. Witness had a dog with him, and Rayne said to him, "You have sore work with that dog." Witness replied that Mr. Slater had got a dog to try it in coursing. He afterwards saw him about four o'clock, and went into Rayne's house, and had his pipe with him. Rayne had his ten. He had a red herring and some bread. Witness said to him, that was very slow medicine for a man that had to work hard. He had never said that he saw Rayne eat the herring in the shop. He knew that it was the 2nd of November, because they sent 16 lengths of chain away on that day. Witness worked with Mr. Renwick.

Mr. Hunter—Are you a pugilist?

Witness—That's no business of yours.

In answer to further questions, the witness admitted having been in custody "about a box," but on explanation it appeared the charge was not pressed against him. Another witness also deposed to seeing Rayne on the morning and evening of the 2nd of November at Winlaton.

The evidence against the prisoners was then proceeded with, and Ralph Smith, a time-keeper at Twizell colliery, on being called, stated that he recollects seeing two men on November 2. It would be about half-past nine or ten o'clock in the forenoon. He was taking the number of the colliery wagons. The two men were walking side by side. They were going south. He has since seen them in the police station at Gateshead on Christmas Day. The two men pointed out as Richard Rayne and John Cain are the men he saw pass Twizell on the 2nd of November. The man that had a velvet coat on, Rayne, had a peculiar walk. He would swear that it was he. No one ever told him about Rayne's peculiar walk before he saw the men at Gateshead. Witness named Rayne's walk to the over-man on the colliery upon the 2nd of November. He thought they were seeking work, and he did not like their looks. The men went down a foot-road that leads from Shield-road to Durham or Chester-le-Street. Cain had a sharper way of walking than Rayne. He was positive that he was not wrong in the men. He was in the habit of employing men on bank as labourers. This induced him to make the observation to the over-man.

By Mr. Stoker—He would be about twelve yards from the men when he saw them. A policeman was in the office on the 2nd of November, when he mentioned to Mackinlay that he had seen two men whose looks he did not like, and described them to that person in the presence of the policeman. The policeman's name is Curry. He heard of the murder the week after. About six or seven weeks after he heard of the murder, Curry came to him and asked him to go to Gateshead to look at two men. He was shown them in the yard, and he immediately said that Rayne and Cain were the two men that passed Twizell. Twizell is about four miles from Burnopfield, about eight miles from Durham, and about eight miles from Winlaton. The police did not point out the men to him.

Mr. R. Crofton, farmer, of Whitehall, near Chester-le-Street, said he remembered the 2nd of November. He had two farms, and was returning to his home about half-past twelve, when he met two men upon Whitehall bank, in a road that led to Durham. He has since seen the men at the police-station at Gateshead. He saw them yesterday week. Those men are John Cain and Richard Rayne. He had not seen the men before. On the 2nd he first overtook Rayne in the road. Cain was forty yards in front of him. Rayne's ankle was exposed, and he thought that he had a short muscular ankle. He took the two men to be two navvies on tramp, and Rayne appeared to be suffering from bad feet. When witness came up to the men he looked at Rayne, but Rayne did not look up; he looked from the side of his face. He identified Rayne by the cast of his eye and his features. He could not get a good look at Cain's face, as he wore a rough foxskin cap. He was so much struck with the appearance of the man that, on riding past them, he turned round in his saddle and looked at them until he turned into his own gate. He looked particularly at Cain on passing, as he was the leading man. He remembered that the day that he saw the men was the 2nd of November, because it was the first day that he commenced to take up potatoes at Pelton-grange. Saturday was the colliery pay-day, and he remarked that it was a wonder he had so many women to work in the potato-field. The Monday morning was also the Earl of Durham's rent-day.

The inquest was adjourned for half an hour, and upon assembling again Mr. Stoker called evidence to prove an *alibi* for Cain. Philip Smith, fruit hawker in Newcastle-on-Tyne, said that on the 1st of November he had a child born, about two o'clock in the morning, and after dinner—it might be about one o'clock in the afternoon—he came out of his house, and seeing John Cain come out of his own passage he waved his hand to him, and he came across to him. He told Cain that as he now had a son he would give him a glass. They went to the Cannon public-house, in the Close, where Cain had three half glasses of whisky and a glass of ale. They then came out and stood on the Sandhill some time. They then went up to Mr. Colpitts, where they had two half glasses of whisky, and parted.

By Mr. Hunter—Witness was sober in the morning, but "fresh" in the afternoon. He might be an hour in Cain's company. Witness went to the horse fair after he parted with Cain. Cain's wife sent him on the day his child was christened, five weeks after it was born, to ask him if he could remember being with her husband on the 1st of November. He had not drunk with Cain before that day. He had no great acquaintance with Cain. He did not know him by that name. He knew him as "Whisky Jack." The next witness, Joseph Oley, described as a ship-broker and Custom-house agent, stated that he dined with Cain on November 1 at Newcastle. During his examination, however, he displayed such striking indications of being in a state of drunkenness, that the Coroner ordered him out of the room.

A superintendent of police then read some extracts from account books, which appeared to be contradictory of the statements made by one of the witnesses at the last hearing, who sought to prove an *alibi* for Rayne.

The Coroner now summed up the evidence from the commencement, and recapitulated all the facts that had been elicited by the prosecution, these he contrasted with the contradictions in the attempted *alibi*, and then asked the jury whether there was not sufficient evidence against the two men in custody to send them for trial. They must, however, recollect, he said, that no person was on trial before them; they were simply bound to declare their belief as to the cause of the death of the unfortunate young man.

A jurymen asked the Coroner if the police had any information that a person passed down Smaile's Lane a short time after Mr. Sterling was supposed to have been murdered?

The Coroner replied that they had, but they had not thought it worth while calling him.

The jury retired, and, after about half an hour's absence, returned, when the foreman said they were unanimously of opinion that Richard Rayne and John Cain were the two men seen by Mr. Stobart in Smaile's Lane on the 1st of November, and by Mr. Crofton and Mr. Smith on their road to Durham on the 2nd; and it was his painful duty to state that the jury had come to the conclusion that Rayne and Cain should be sent to Durham Assizes for trial on a charge of the wilful murder of Mr. Robert Sterling on the 1st of November last. A verdict of "Wilful murder" was accordingly recorded against them.

POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

A BRACE OF WIDOWS AND A PRIEST OUTWITTED.—John Ryan, a very respectable-looking Irish labourer, about 50 years of age, surrendered to his own recognizances before the Wansworth Police Court, on Monday, to answer the charge of the reliving officer of Clapham, for neglecting to maintain his wife, Ann Ryan, whereby she had become chargeable to that parish.

It appeared that the accused was first brought before the Court upon a warrant at the suit of the reliving officer, who stated that the wife was then an inmate of the workhouse, and she had been chargeable to the parish for the past week. The officer had waited upon the prisoner, who was in good employ, and he had refused to contribute anything towards the support of his wife. From the statement of the wife, it appeared that she had not been living with her husband for the last two years, and he had neglected to maintain her. She had indeed grown up by a former husband, and the prisoner was also a child by another wife. They had no children.

Upon the prisoner being called on for his defence, he made a long statement, in which he declared that he had never been really married to the complainant (Ann Ryan). About two years ago, he was living in Clapham, when one evening a widow named Wise came to him, and said he was wanted at the Monastery, in Clapham. He went there, and saw a Mrs. Williams, who told him Widow Hains was inside, and that he had better go in and marry her. He refused to do so, and she told him he had brought disgrace upon Widow Hains, and that he had better go inside, and let Father Pecher marry him to the widow. He protested for some time against marrying her, and at last he went into a room, where there were Widow Hains, Widow Wise, and Father Pecher. It was then about eight o'clock at night, and the priest went through some ceremony, which he did not understand. No banns were published, he paid no fees, nor was there any ring or witnesses present. The prisoner, however, said he believed a ring was borrowed from another woman, but he did not see it. He was then told that he was married, and he went his way, and his wife another, but, however, lived together some time afterwards; but he had been compelled to leave her, in consequence of her conduct.

In answer to questions, the wife said, it was at Easter she were married. The certificate was signed by two persons, and she did not know what the prisoner wanted her to do.

The prisoner asked his worship to adjourn the case, for him to prove what he had asserted.

The Magistrate at once consented, and said the prisoner had made a statement with such a degree of genuineness, that he was inclined to believe his story. He should direct that a communication should be made to the Registrar-General as to whether any legal marriage had been performed. The case was then adjourned, and the prisoner was discharged, upon his entering into his own recognizances to appear again.

The Registrar of Births, Marriages, &c., now attended, and said he belonged to Clapham, in which the monastery was situated, and declared he was never present at a marriage between the prisoner and the complainant.

The Magistrate said the case had been satisfactorily examined, and it was clear, after the evidence that had been adduced, that an illegal marriage had been performed, and therefore the complainant had no claim whatever upon the prisoner. He then discharged the case, and told the complainant that she was not the wife of Ryan, and could not compel him to maintain her.

The whole of the parties then left the Court.

A MOCK AUTHOR.—Ernest Theophile Guignet, described in the charge-sheet as "An Author," of 11, Oxford Terrace, Paddington, was placed at the bar, at Guildhall, on Monday, charged with obtaining large quantities of goods to the amount of £10,000 by means of false pretences.

The prisoner, it was stated, was one of a band of swindlers who had come over to this country for the purpose of victimising English tradesmen, and the charge against him will be to concur with others not in custody, to obtain goods under false pretences to the amount of many thousands of pounds.

A detective said—On Saturday afternoon I was with a comrade in Winchester Street, where I found the prisoner with a mob of fifty or sixty persons round him, he having just jumped from the first-floor window. The solicitor was also present, and gave the prisoner into my custody on a charge of conspiracy. My comrade immediately collared the prisoner, and I followed them. On getting into Broad Street, the prisoner threw off his outer coat and got away. We all gave chase, and I reaptured him at the corner of Wormwood Street. I took him to the Moor Lane station, and on searching him found the following articles—A gold watch and chain 49 in money, seven Bank of England £5 notes, a note in 100 francs, one for 100 francs, one for 20 francs, and other coins not relating to the charge. I took him back to 10, Winchester Street, where he had carried on business previous to his jumping from the window, and there found some books and invoices, all of which I now produce.

The solicitor was then examined, and said—Accompanied by Mr. Sleyfers, of Paris, I went to the house, on the first floor of which persons calling themselves "F. Maurice and Co." appeared to be carrying on business. I there saw the prisoner, and asked him to discover certain property. He said he had nothing to discover, and I then said I should give him into custody, and requested Mr. Sleyfers to fetch an officer. I placed myself against the door to prevent his escape, when he opened the window, and finding the coast clear, he threw himself into the street below. I called out to Mr. Sleyfers to stop him, and the latter secured the prisoner until the arrival of the constable, when the prisoner was charged with conspiring with a man now in custody in Paris, and other persons, to obtain goods by fraud and false pretences. In consequence of information furnished by the prisoner we have recovered large quantities of goods.

The solicitor here intimated that it was not desirable to proceed with the inquiry any further at present, as the publication of the names of parties implicated would only defeat the ends of justice. He therefore applied for a remand, to enable them to communicate with parties at Paris. The prisoner was then remanded.

ROBBERY AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM.—Samuel Willetts, charged on remand with stealing coals and firewood from the British Museum, where he was employed as storekeeper, was brought up at Bow Street, on Tuesday, for final examination.

It appeared that the stores found in the prisoner's house, and supposed to have been also pilfered from the Museum, could not be clearly identified. The prisoner elected to be tried by this court, but pleaded Not Guilty.

The Magistrate said he had not the slightest doubt of the prisoner's guilt. There could be little question that in large public establishments like the Museum, a system of petty pilfering by persons in similar positions to that of the prisoner was carried on to a very considerable extent. Property was carried away in dribs and drabs, and no suspicion arose till at the end of the year a great loss was perceived. In all such cases it was the duty of private individuals and public servants to prosecute wherever they could detect the delinquent.

It was of no avail to plead distress, that was no excuse for robbing those from whom one has derived one's living. However, as the prisoner bore hitherto a good character, he did not consider it a case that called for the heaviest punishment in his power to inflict, though it certainly required such a penalty as would mark his sense of the seriousness of the offence itself. He must be imprisoned for three months.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

There has been an increased money business transacted in the coin market this week, and prices have advanced about one-half per cent. The partial rejection of the Australian proposals for peace on the part of Russia, is regarded by some parties in a favourable light. The 3 per cent. consols, for money, have been done at 86½; for the account

of the Bank of England.

Long minuets, 3½; ditto, 1855, 16½. India stock, 218 to 220; exchequer bonds, 9½; India bonds, 7s. to 8s. dis.; exchequer bills, 7s. to 7s. discount.

Very little bullion has arrived from any quarter, and those continue to be a steady export demand. Money is tolerably abundant, but the lowest rate of interest in Lombard Street, for 60 days bills, is 5½ per cent. The stock of bullion in the Banks of England and France still continues to decline. In the latter institution, the fall in the supply last month was about £1,000,000.

The dealings in the foreign house have been devoid of interest. Prices, however, have kept remarkably steady. Turkish 6 per cent. have marked 80½; the new scrip, 4½ dis.; Brazilian, 9½; Mexican 3 per cent., 19½; Peruvian 4½ per cent., 7½; Portuguese 4 per cent., 40½; Russian 4½ per cent., 86; Spanish 3 per cent., 38½; ditto new deferred, 21½; Dutch 2½ per cent., 63.

Joint-stock bank shares have sold as follows:—Australia, 8½; City, 63½; Colonial, 20½; London Joint-Stock, 34½; Union and Westminster, 49½; Union of Australia, 73½; Union of London, 30½.

Miscellaneous securities have been heavy. Australian Agricultural, 20½; Berlin Waterworks, 6½; Canada, 12½; ditto Government 6 per cent., 10½; Electric Telegraph, 2½; General Screw Steam Shipping Company, 15½; Peel River Land and Mineral, 2½; Peninsular and Oriental Steam, 6½.

Very limited dealings have been reported in the railway share market. Aberdeen, 2½; Caledonian, 53½; Eastern Counties, 8½; Great Northern, 88½; Great Western, 52½; London and North Western, 93½; London and South Western, 55½; Midland, 63½; Norfolk, 42; South Eastern, 57.

LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—GEORGE WEATHERHEAD, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, joiner.

BANKRUPT.—ROBERT TURNER, Ludgate Hill, draper.

—JAMES WILSON, Grafton Road, Kentish Town, ship broker.

—THOMAS HAMPTON, Broadwater, Sussex, corn merchant.

—GEORGE LONGDEN, Welton-in-the-Marsh, Lincoln, draper.

—EDWARD RHEAM SANDERSON, West Kinnald, Ferry, Lincoln, seed crusher.

—JOHN RICHARDS, Cardiff, ship owner.

—ALEXANDER ANDERSON, Stourbridge, innkeeper.

—THOMAS WEATHERHEAD and JOSEPH LASSEY, Morley, Yorkshire, dyers.

—JAMES PRATT and CHARLES ABSON, Castleford, Yorkshire, earthenware manufacturers.

—CHARLES FOX, Manchester, print-seller.

—SAMUEL LOWE, Oldham, provision dealer.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—MACDONALD and BAIRD, Glasgow, clothiers.

—ALEXANDER MACINNIES, Inverness, merchant.

—JOHN M'ARDY, senior, Stourhead, gardener and merchant.

—JOHN BENDLOW, Muirtown, near Inverness, hotel keeper.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—GEORGE WESTBURY, HALL, Lime Street, City, East India merchant and drysaler.

BANKRUPT.—JOHN TODD MERRICK, Walworth Road, builder.

—THOMAS WOOLHOUSE, Shefford, saw manufacturers.

—ROBERT FORSHAW, Liverpool, coal dealer.

—JAMES FRASER, Lower Thames Street, City, spirit merchant.

—GEORGE BROWN and WILLIAM RUSHY, Bankside, stone merchants.

—JOHN PEE, Astley Abbotts, blacksmith.

—WILLIAM CORBETT, East Dean, and Newhaven, Gloucestershire, coal merchant.

—EDWIN WINSOM, Croydon, piano-forte dealer.

—EDWARD HOOKER, Forest Hill, contractor and builder.

—GEORGE HATT, New Park Street, Southwark, cookey-keeper.

—CHARLES LUMLEY, Knaresborough, York, gardener.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—WILLIAM ANGUS, Inveresk, near Edinburgh.

—THOMAS YOUNG, Anderston, Glasgow, baker and victualler.

—CHARLES LUMLEY, Knaresborough, York, gardener.

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